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HOME NEWS

Ratepayers 'lost out' in reorganization of local government

From a Staff Reporter

Local government reorganization, which had led to a power struggle between county and district authorities, a swollen bureaucracy, and higher rates, as denounced by a county councillor at the Raising and Alleviation Association conference at Bournemouth yesterday, Mr. Thomas Barry, who is leader of the Conservative group of the West Yorkshire County Council, said it seemed that the only people not to gain out of reorganization were the ratepayers. They were saddened by that they had lost and "completely disillusioned about the future".

He gave three reasons for thinking reorganization had failed:

"One of the main points in your report was the need for one association to speak for all government in its negotiations with central government instead of four as previously," said Mr. Barry. "It was a signal failure to have achieved that aim. There were now three bodies: the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, the Association of District Councils, and the Association of County Councils. So we are almost back to where we started and the Whitehall-sensitized alliance will still be able to divide and rule. That was evident earlier this year over the allocation of the new element of the ratepayers' grant where, Mr. Barry, the decision was more in favour of those councils represented on the Association of Metropolitan Authorities than the other councils."

Mr. Barry's second point was in the Maud report, and

elsewhere, great play had been made with the fact that the new authorities would attract a better "mix" of elected members, but in general, the mixture was as before. He said: "My personal view is that the status of members has declined. Various factors contribute to this, including the increased power of officials, remoteness from the electorate and the controversy over payment of attendance allowances."

Mr. Barry's third point was that reorganization was intended to do away with the friction between counties and county boroughs. He said: "This was in my view more imaginary than real but is nothing like the battle now going on between counties and districts."

"Coordination between counties and districts is imperative if local government reorganization is to succeed, but on the contrary, particularly in some metropolitan areas, districts are going up against counties. It has even gone so far that some districts are actively engaged in an attempt to do away with county councils."

He described that as "a power struggle without parallel and no holds barred". He continued: "After being told that by the drastic reduction of the number of local authorities we should have greater efficiency at less cost, we have exactly the opposite."

It was known, Mr. Barry said, that the royal commission report cost £400,000, but the actual cost of the organization had not even been estimated. He said that the cost of the organization had been planned and the management structures had largely increased salaries in certain categories.

Welsh threat to block Irish beef imports

By Hugh Clayton

Farmers in North Wales are prepared to block roads and railways to prevent subsidised Irish beef and cattle from reaching British markets their leaders said yesterday.

Mr. David Roberts, chairman of the Anglesey branch of the National Farmers' Union, said: "We are under tremendous pressure from our members to do something. It is almost amounting to a revolt."

Mr. David Cary Evans, chairman of the NFU council for Wales, said farmers in Caernarvonshire might be driven to blocking railway lines if the Government failed to restrict the imports.

The NFU said it believed that 700 line animals and thousands of carcasses were arriving every day.

The union believes that Irish cattle, carrying EEC subsidies, are helping to depress already uneconomic market prices. It says the animals are being sold at livestock markets in Manchester, Cambridge, Postlethwaite, Swindon and Luton.

The general purposes committee of the NFU is to meet today to discuss a resolution calling for machinery to combat the imports. The Anglesey branch executive is to meet on Friday.

The Ministry of Agriculture said there was no evidence that it was happening in any significant quantity.

Business News, page 19



From left: Professor Paul J. Flory, of Stanford University, California, Professor Sir Martin Ryle, and Professor Antony Hewish, both of Cambridge, yesterday's Nobel Prize winners.

Nobel team together 25 years

Sir Martin Ryle, aged 56, and Professor Anthony Hewish, aged 50, joint winners of the Nobel Prize for Physics, have worked together at Cambridge for 25 years. Sir Martin was appointed the first Professor of Radio Astronomy at Cambridge in 1959 and was one of the first in the world. A fellow of Trinity College, he received his knighthood in 1966. He was also the first radio astronomer to become Astronomer Royal, succeeding Sir Richard Woolley in 1972.

As a fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal Astronomical Society, Sir Martin has played an important role in stimulating the development of astronomy in the United Kingdom and in international collaboration.

During the war he worked on radar, and brought the new techniques of microwave electronics to advanced equipment for fundamental research. A team built at the Cavendish Laboratory by Sir Martin included Anthony Hewish.

Professor Hewish is a fellow of Churchill College. He is perhaps best known to the interested layman for his discovery of pulsars, which he identified with Jocelyn Bell, a research student.

The discovery enabled

scientists to establish the presence of the enormously heavy neutron stars, something they had been speculating about since the 1930s, the academy said.

The best-known pulsar is in the Crab Nebula, a glowing cloud of gas thought to be the remains of a stellar explosion noted by the Chinese in 1054; one of the most interesting phenomena in the heavens, the academy called it.

Dr. Hewish, who has held the chair of professor astronomy at Cambridge since 1971, was yesterday attending a meeting at the Royal Society in London. His wife, Marjorie, said at their home at Barton, near Cambridge: "He certainly will be incredibly thrilled. We wanted Professor Ryle to get it. That

it has been awarded jointly is simply delightful. . . . The two astronomers will share a tax-free prize of £50,000 (about £53,000).

As an astronomer, Sir Martin has been a leading advocate of the "big bang" theory of the origin of the universe. According to this theory, the universe originated in an explosion whose fragments are still receding.

The Nobel citation praised Sir Martin's "observations and inventions", singling out the aperture-synthesis technique.

A total of 19 Britons have now won the physics award since the Nobel Prize was instituted in 1901. Britain, with 70 Nobel prizes, ranks second behind the United States, which heads the list with 120 prizes.

Six Yemenis said to be in 'crime syndicate'

A judge at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday that six Yemenis were among two hundred members of a professional crime syndicate based in Cairo and Italy which travelled the world committing thefts. The six are alleged to have stolen £20,000 in cash in six weeks in London and the Home Counties.

Det. Sergeant John Jones said one defendant, Naji Abdul Kadir Abdullah, was in Britain illegally and one of the two women, Farida Abbas Farid Naim, was wanted in Lebanon in connection with 30 thefts. Also in the dock were Abdul Khubail Abdulla Sherif, Naim Farid Kamal, Abdulla Ibrahim Ali, and Lira Fareed Naaim. All were applying for bail.

Mr. C. R. Mitchell, for the prosecution, said: "They asked for change of a £20 note and when the assistants became confused helped themselves to money from the tills."

Sergeant Jones said that five or six others involved had returned to the Middle East. After their arrest the six defendants "told lies for three days. They told different stories and gave various addresses which we were unable to check."

Mr. Mustafa Hajja, First Secretary at the Yemeni Embassy, said his government was prepared to stand surety for Sir Carl A. Arnold, the Recorder, said: "I cannot bind an embassy but even if I did it would not be worth the paper it was written on."

Bail was refused.

Campaigning reporters did not abuse airport privilege

A complaint by Liverpool Council that reporters had abused their press privileges at the Liverpool Echo airport, and that the newspaper published a report was irresponsible and unfounded, has been rejected by Press Council.

A story by Derek Whale and Ben Oldfield said that the army-police alert issued at Heathrow airport, London, security was being stepped up at all regional airports. To check security at regional airports they said they could have been briefed as at the airport and were challenged by security.

The newspaper next day said that they had destroyed the terminal building without difficulty and could have planted mines on any of half a dozen aircraft.

On the following day the newspaper published a story in which Mr. Oldfield said that on the second day of his "bomb" raid he was monitored by full security guards and that forces were very much alerted.

Mr. Haigh, the corporation's security officer, replied to reports. He said two presented themselves at security barrier and asked to the office of the air director. To establish identity they produced press passes, were allowed to enter, and then took advantage of that to create a story.

Oldfield wrote in reply the only press pass provided was an out-of-date one by a photographer.

George Cregeen, the editor of the Press Council, said that he had travelled to the airport independently of Mr. Oldfield and the photographer, conducted his observations at the airport without being challenged.

In its adjudication, the Press Council said that it was unethical in such circumstances to publish an anonymous letter without being aware of its authorship.

As a general proposition the council considers that publication is improper unless some positive inquiry is made and that the facts alleged may well be true.

cl. rejects the suggestion that this report about it was irresponsible. The complaint is rejected.

Anonymous letter: The publication of an anonymous letter when the identity of the writer was unknown is condemned in a Press Council adjudication.

A Union of Post Office Workers complaint that the Evening Echo, Watford, published an anonymous letter purporting to be from a postman denigrating other postmen, was upheld.

The letter was headed "Shopping in the firm's van. . . . A pint on the job. . . . That's how I fiddle the boss's time."

In it the writer said he was a postman earning £48-£50 gross for a 30-hour week. He set out his daily schedule including practices referred to in the headline.

Mr. Tom Jackson, general secretary of the union, wrote to the editor saying that so far as Post Office work was concerned the sentiments in the letter were downright lies. A postman in Hemel Hempstead had basic pay of just over £27 for a 43-hour week. The Post Office was very strict in ensuring that staff did not commit many of the practices described in the letter.

Mr. Jackson's letter was published but without a reference to its request for an apology. The rest of the letters column was devoted to six other letters commenting on the anonymous letter. Mr. Jackson wrote again to the editor saying he still considered an apology due. Mr. H. Lewis, the editor, declined to apologize. He said that the anonymous letter dealt with a matter of public interest. He had decided it was genuine and therefore published it. Mr. Jackson replied that on the basis of his inquiries the letter was a fabrication.

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Court quashes sentence informer

an antique dealer, who fled during his trial on a charge of becoming a hit man and his wife, was unjustly sentenced, the Court of Appeal decided yesterday.

The court freed Leonard Hove, 53, of Montgomery, Hove, Sussex, from a year jail sentence passed by Central Criminal Court on November 29 last year. Mr. Hove had been arrested later when he returned to Britain. He was convicted, Ronald Hales, a former chief inspector, and her men, of conspiracy in cash by corruption.

Justice Lawton, sitting with Justice Scarman and Justice Dunn, said: "In years Briggs acted as an informer and the criminal world is not very well disposed towards police informers. Briggs had passed information to Mr. Hales enabling him to arrest a man and then to drop charges if the wife paid £10,000. The case was discovered when the complainant to Scotland

Judge expresses concern about juries

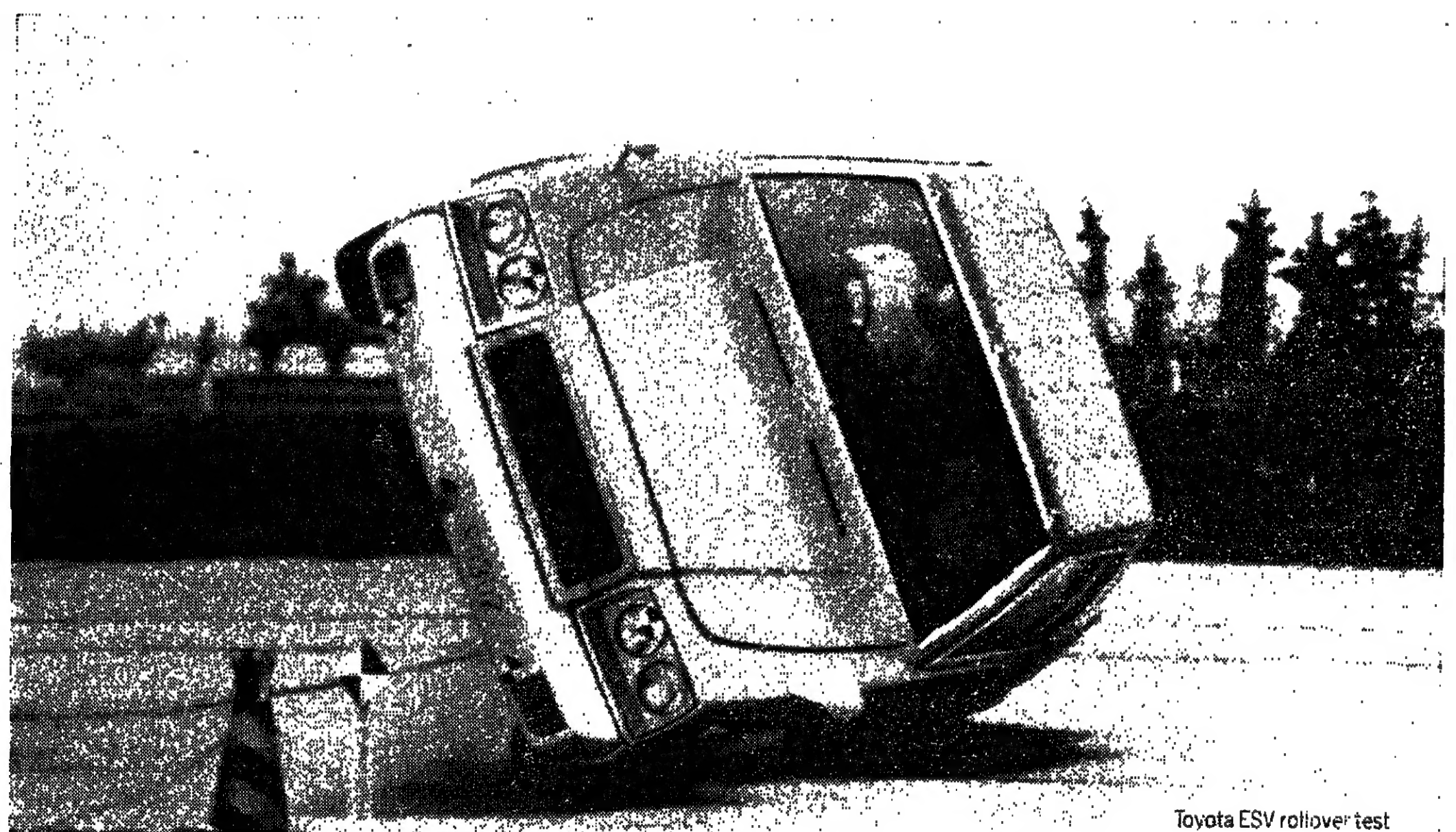
As more and more people become employed by the same organizations the day might come when "we shall never be able to empanel a jury at all", Judge Everett, QC, suggested at Middlesex Crown Court.

The trial of a London airport loader on a theft charge had to be restarted after a juror had disclosed that he was himself a loader. When a fresh jury was sworn in, three potential members stood down because they had connections with the airport.

"I do not know where this sort of thing will lead us", the judge said. He asked whether similar difficulties would be met if, for instance, a juror was a typist in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, and the defendant a civil servant from a different department and part of the country.

Nurses' hospital ban

Nurses at the 575-bed Lea Castle Hospital, Worcestershire, from tomorrow will ban all admissions and ballot on strike action because increased salaries due have not been paid.



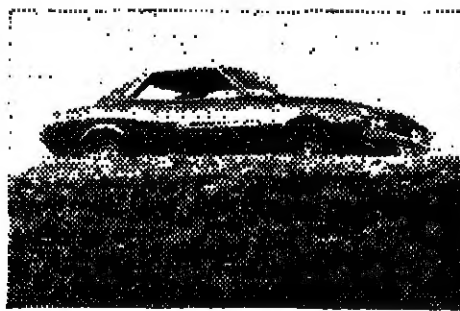
Toyota ESV rollover test

People, the motor car, and Toyota.

People today expect more from their cars than ever before. They want safety, fuel economy, reliability and quality. They want the motor vehicle to become an even more responsible member of society. The people at Toyota want the same thing. And our Experimental Safety Vehicle (ESV) is just one example of the positive measures we're taking. For eight years, we've been working on a car that would ensure the safety of its passengers in a 50 mph collision. We've gone through more than a hundred prototypes—

running them into walls, into poles, rolling them over. As our research progressed, we developed important new safety devices... among them a unique gas bag system that cushions the passengers upon impact. Now that our ESV project has been successfully completed, we're starting to install some of those new safety devices

on our production models. We've done all this (and a lot more) because after nearly 40 years as a manufacturer, we take what we're doing rather seriously. And because the one thing we care about—even more than cars—is people.



Better Harmony
TOYOTA

HOME NEWS

Television licence fee must rise early next year to avoid cutting programmes, BBC says

By Kenneth Gosling

The Government fairly soon will have to concede an increase in the television licence fee or the BBC will have to make big cuts in programmes. Sir Michael Swann, the BBC chairman, said yesterday.

The present fee is £7 for a black-and-white set and £12 for colour.

"We have formally asked for it to be raised but we have not put a figure on it because this is dependent on so many things," he said. "Our financial position" is at present being looked at. We said ages ago that the present fee would just about keep us going until March or April 1975, when we are likely to be bound about the limit of our borrowing powers."

Sir Michael, speaking at a Broadcasting Press Guild luncheon in London, said the figure depended on the differential between black and white and colour as a sort of rough justice in personal view would be to have the colour licence twice that of the black and white.

In fact, £2 on each would make a significant difference, although it might be argued that it might be better to put more on colour. By world standards our fees were low: Denmark's was £42.57 and Holland's one of the lowest, £17.

Sir Michael said there had been economies already. "Though you can fiddle around with minor economies, the only way you can make major ones is by cutting programmes", he said. "The sort of thing that we do develop is that we do not fill vacant posts, make cuts in hours—that sort of things. If the present fee is held any great distance into next year that is the situation we shall be in."

Sir Michael answered accusations made during the election campaign that the BBC, with its recent pay settlement, had been the "victim" of the social contract.

The BBC had a strike on and was in difficulty. "I think we had no option in fairness and decency but to do what we did."

Any government might be tempted to think that direct financing would be less politically unpopular and less trouble, but he suspected that for the BBC it would be a lot more trouble. He continued:

"As long as you have a licence fee you preserve a degree of independence not so easy to preserve if you are financed directly. One way or another you are much more potentially subject to government intervention."

What they would like, he said, was "indexation" in some form, getting more money as

the cost of living rose, although it was difficult to see how it would be done.

On Labour's proposals on broadcasting, published during its last term of office, Sir Michael said he was a believer in breaking up the BBC, "not that I think it would be the end of the world, but I am bound to ask myself what good it would do."

If it was said that the BBC was too big and had internal problems of communication, separating radio and television would not make much difference; conversely, it would lose cost-effectiveness and make the constituent parts politically a little more vulnerable, smaller units making government control easier.

Sir Michael spoke of the Louis Harris straw poll conducted for the BBC in 135 constituencies on election night.

"I think we were a little too anxious to get in first, with some kind of prediction," he said. Researchers had stopped surveying polling stations at 8.15, one hour 45 minutes before voting ended.

"I do not know whether there were a lot of different voters who went in after that but the net result was disastrously wrong and we probably will not do that again at a future election."

In brief

Fine for death crash driver

Jacques Rouyer, a lorry driver from Cherbourg, was fined £150 and banned from driving in Britain for two years at Winchester Crown Court yesterday for causing the death of two people by dangerous driving. His articulated lorry collided with a van near Winchester and Mr John Edward Molyneux and Jacqueline Diane Johnson, both of Chandler's Ford were killed.

Demonstration echo

About 400 journalists and media workers protested at the Office yesterday about alleged police officers' assault of press photographers by police officers at the Red Lion Square demonstration in September.

Win for composer

Michael Blake Watkins, of Woodford Green, Essex, has won the first Menzies competition for young composers organized by the City of Westminster Arts Council and the Ernest Read Music Association.

Archbishop for TV

The Archbishop of York, Dr Coggan, will become Archbishop of Canterbury in December, is to appear regularly in a new series of *Stars on Sunday*, the independent television programme, from next month.

Show not indecent

Charges against two Leeds cabaret performers, Richard and Dorothy Arnold, and a Dublin licensee, John Wheelan, of presenting an indecent exhibition at a public house, were dismissed at the Dublin Central Circuit Court yesterday.

Surgery escape

Mr Anthony Walton, a dentist, and a patient escaped unhurt in an explosion that wrecked a workshop next to the surgery in Castle Street, Oxford, yesterday, injuring Mr Alan Chase, aged 40, a dental technician.

National Front candidate in election charged

Keith Squires, National Front parliamentary candidate for Wood Green, was charged yesterday at Wood Green police station with causing actual bodily harm and criminal damage arising out of an incident at the election count last Thursday night.

Mr Squires, aged 36, a scrap metal merchant, has been bailed to appear at Tottenham Magistrates' Court on Friday.

At the count Mr Squires apparently tried to lead a crowd in singing the National Anthem and Labour supporters began to counter-sing "Deutschland über Alles".

Report lists perils lurking for babies on the bottle

By John Roper Medical Reporter

Most babies born in Britain are bottle-fed either immediately or very soon after birth but it would be better if they were breast-fed for at least a fortnight and preferably for four to six months, a Department of Health working party reported yesterday.

Advantages of breast-feeding mentioned in the report include a lower risk of microbial contamination occurring in the preparation and giving of bottle feeds, benefit to the baby from antibodies passed on from the mother's milk such as protection against the poliovirus, and less of a hazard from allergens present in cows' milk feeds, at the particularly vulnerable period of an infant's life.

The younger the baby the more likely was the incidence in immunological defence mechanisms. Some chronic allergic illnesses may derive from exposure to allergens in cows' milk and other foods.

Another factor, the report said, was obesity. Most doctors and health visitors thought that there are too many fat babies and young children. Studies had shown that infants fed artificially gained weight faster.

The report recognizes the importance of artificial feeding and that most babies thrive on it. But it deprecates the advertisement or promotion of infant milks in any way that suggests that a substitute milk is the

equivalent of or better than breast milk. As many as possible of the factors that militated against breastfeeding should be removed, the report says.

It suggests that the period of maternity allowance should be adjustable (18 weeks, starting at the eleventh week before the week in which the baby is due) so that on medical advice mothers who so wish could continue to breast-feed after the birth than at present.

Reconstituted artificial milk feed should approximate to breast milk as nearly as is practicable; early introduction of cereals or other semi-solid foods before the age of four months should be strongly discouraged and cereals should not be added to bottle feeds.

Neither sugar nor salt should be added to solid foods in an infant's diet, and manufacturers of infant food products should be cautious of adding them.

(Presented by *Parents in Infant Feeding*, Stationery Office, 45p.)

Alcohol warning: Hundreds of doctors in north-east England have been asked to keep count of the number of alcoholics who come to them in the first five weeks (a Staff Reporter writes).

It is part of a £100,000 campaign by the Health Education Council to discourage drinking, which starts in Durham today. Advertisements against drinking will be broadcast on television and radio, and hostels and treatment centres for alcoholics will be set up.

Court told woman said bomb was badly placed

The M62 coach bomb trial was yesterday told of a conversation in which Judith Ward admitted drawing a sketch map of Aldershot barracks, in which seven people were killed and 18 injured during a bomb explosion.

Dat Chief Insp Edwin Smith, of the Hampshire police, told Wakefield Crown Court that on April 9 he interviewed Miss Ward at Dewsbury police station.

He said that Miss Ward agreed that she had prepared the sketch plan, but told him that she did not know why they wanted the plan. He asked her for the names of the two men to whom she had supplied the sketch and she replied "Quikley and McNally".

Asked whether she would have drawn the plan if she had

known what was going to happen, Mrs Ward allegedly replied: "No, I would not. They messed it up anyway. I would not put the bomb there."

Miss Ward, of Middlesex Road, Birmingham, Stockport, has pleaded not guilty to murdering 12 people who died as a result of the explosion in an army coach on the M62 in Yorkshire last February. She has also denied causing an explosion at Euston Station, London, in September, 1973.

Mr Smith said he asked Miss Ward about Michael McVerry. She said he was her boy friend until he was shot. Asked if he was shot by soldiers, she replied: "Yes, he was firing at them at the time."

When Mr Smith asked if she decided to get back at the responsible, Miss Ward did not reply.

The trial was adjourned until today.

WEST EUROPE

Tory EEC group proposes direct elections to the European Parliament

By Our Political Staff

Direct elections to the European Parliament and, in effect, a compulsory European Bill of Rights are among the proposals for strengthening the EEC put forward by the Conservative group in the European Parliament in a document, entitled *The European Community: Our Common Cause*, published yesterday.

The group, which is composed of representatives from the British Conservatives and the Danish Conservative and Centre parties, is careful to point out that it does not want to see a ready-made constitution imposed on the peoples of Europe.

The document is not a blueprint, it is a statement setting out the group's position on a wide range of topics, from the economy and agriculture to the rights of the citizen.

An early amendment to the Treaty of Rome is proposed, to include specific provision for the protection of the fundamental rights of the citizens of the Community. What the group has in mind is to extend the European Convention on Human Rights and make it compulsory for member countries to ratify and apply it. In that respect, the group would propose:

The enlargement of the citizen's right to question the legality of Community acts, in order to provide an appropriate guarantee against incompetence and abuse of power.

Measures entitling the citizen, when in dispute with Community authorities or national public authorities administering Community decisions, to have access to and full disclosure of all documents of the authority relevant to his case, subject to considerations of defence and public safety.

The introduction of legal aid for the citizen who cannot pay the cost of instituting proceedings before the Court of Justice, not by way of loan but by way of grant.

An examination by the European Commission, in close collaboration with the Parliament, of all questions arising from the citizen's right of privacy, with the aim of taking action where necessary on a Community level, particularly in connection with the gathering and dissemination of computer data.

A detailed examination of the possibility of appointing an ombudsman.

While the group wants an early decision on direct elections to the Parliament, it recognizes that because of widely differing laws and traditions in the member countries those elections could not be held for some time by a "uniform procedure".

In the meantime, the document suggests that priority should be given to reaching agreement on qualifications for voting and that during the transitional period the organization of elections should be left to the discretion of member countries.

With the increased authority and popular acceptance that would come from being directly elected, the Parliament would, the group believes, stand a better chance of being able to increase its control over the expenditure of the Community. The Parliament should also have the right, it is argued, to review all the Commission's proposals, not just those with budgetary implications, while they are still in draft form.

Our Parliamentary Staff writes from Strasbourg: At a press conference here, Mr Peter Kirk, leader of the European Conservative group, confirmed that the manifesto would be used in the campaign on any referendum about continued British membership of the Community.

He said: "I am very confident of the outcome of any referendum campaign, provided the Labour Party does not change its mind again. If it recommends acceptance then I think we shall win an overwhelming majority."

The intention of the document was to view the future of European construction on the basis of what had already been achieved and what could practically be achieved. The group was not trying to write a blueprint for the ideal Community in the 1980s, 1990 and the year 2000. It was intended to be a first attempt to write a practical

manifesto for the next five years or so.

Mr Kirk went on: "We believe that everything in this document can be achieved without much alteration of the treaty, provided there is the will necessary to achieve it."

The group had in mind a conference in Cambridge next spring to discuss the contents of the manifesto. Representatives from each of the nine countries in the Parliament and from political parties in each country, including the British Labour Party, would be invited.

Mr Kirk said the Commission and the council had still to be convinced that the manifesto recommendations were sensible and practical. The document had not been submitted to or approved by the three parties from which the group was made up, but the group would consider itself bound by it.

"It is not intended to be a document for the parties at home other than for stimulating discussion in these parties about the sort of things we should be doing in Europe," he said.

Mr Kirk said that although the document was available earlier, it had not been published in time for the British general election because they did not wish to complicate what was an already complicated campaign by producing something which could have been taken as the views of the British Conservative Party.

Grandfather takes place of kidnaper girl

Antwerp, Belgium, Oct. 15.—A kidnapper tonight released the six-year-old daughter of a diamond merchant he had held in his villa and left his father's villa with the child's grandfather.

The child's father is reported to have offered to give the man who entered the house in order to rob him an unspecified quantity of diamonds in exchange for the girl's freedom. The grandfather offered to replace the child as hostage and left the house by car with the man.

Police sources said the man was arrested by Belgian Flyn Squad officers over the frontier in Dutch territory. Several shots were fired before the man was arrested.—Reuter.

Israel burial for anti-Nazi hero

Frankfurt, Oct. 15.—Rita Oskar Schindler, a German Roman Catholic who saved more than 1,200 Jews from Nazi chambers in the Second World War, is to be buried in Jerusalem according to his last wish.



Charlie Chaplin, aged 85, still brings a smile to the faces of his audience at a Swiss circus in Vevey. His wife, Oona, is seated on his right.

Italian currency to beat forgers

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Oct. 15

New 500 lire notes will be introduced next year in an effort to discourage widespread forgery.

According to estimates in the press here, as many as 20 million notes of this denomination now in circulation may have been forged.

The 500 lire note is regarded as attractive to forgers because it is comparatively easy to copy convincingly and is of relatively low face value (the equivalent of 30 pence) for few people to bother to study it closely before accepting it. The note is issued by the Treasury.

Spanish Army support for reforms

Madrid, Oct. 15.—The head of the Spanish Army indicated today that the armed forces would support political liberalization when Prince Juan Carlos succeeds General Franco.

In a speech, at Saragossa, Lieutenant-General Francisco Coloma Gallegos, the Army Minister, said the armed forces were "more united than ever". He added: "And they (the armed forces) are prepared to widen that which the laws have restrained and this is the reason for their existence."

The general, a veteran of North African service, made his

unusual remarks in his second public speech within a week. Political sources were divided on the meaning of his words, but it appeared to many that he was pledging non-intervention by the armed forces to Prince Juan Carlos if he wished to bring about legal changes after succeeding as King.

His remarks also were seen as an assurance to the country that there was no movement of young officers within the armed forces to start a revolution such as that which overthrew the Portuguese right-wing regime last April.

Last week General Coloma

said: "Our armed forces are not political and don't mix politics in the strictest sense. Today, with the prince at the side, he told a crowd: 'Speakers today with the armed forces today with the King, bases of its interest and preparation, defending the permanent, coessential with the existence of the fatherland.'"

The fact that an Army officer closely aligned with the Franco regime during all his career spoke out publicly also was viewed as a reflection of unprecedented political activity in Spain in recent weeks.—AP

Forgotten French citizens go on hunger strike

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Oct. 15

Eight Harkis Muslims who served in the French Army during the Algerian war and opted for French nationality when Algeria became independent 12 years ago, are on hunger strike in the crypt of the Church of the Madeleine, in the heart of Paris.

Since the hunger strike began 40 days ago two men have had to be taken to hospital, but those remaining have been joined by a newcomer in their protest against the failure of the authorities to treat them as "fully-fledged French citizens".

They lie on mattresses on the floor, pale and emaciated, huddled under blankets, feverishly chain-smoking cigarettes. At the entrance to the crypt, notices in French, English, German and Spanish explain the reasons for the hunger strike.

Representatives of different political parties and patriotic or ex-servicemen's associations have come to demonstrate their support. Last Saturday about a thousand persons, French and North Africans, carrying tricolour flags, staged a silent march from the Madeleine to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where M. Muhammad Laradji, the president of the Federation of French Muslims, laid a wreath of red roses, with a ribbon bearing the inscription: "To the Muslim soldiers who died for France."

The Harkis and their families number about 250,000 people. They fled from Algeria in 1962 to escape death at the hands of the National Liberation Front, which regards them as traitors and renegades.

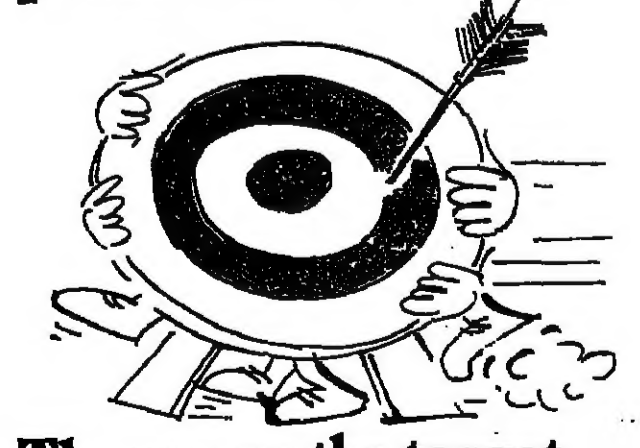
16 Croatians face conspiracy trial

Belgrade, Oct. 15.—A group of 16 Croatian nationalists face trial early next month on charges of conspiring to achieve the secession of Croatia from Yugoslavia.—UPI.

Three tourists die as coach crashes

Salerno, Oct. 15.—Two women and a man were killed when a coach touring religious centres crashed near here today, Italian police stated.—Reuter.

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HOW SHOULD LOCAL GOVERNMENT BE PAID FOR?

An independent committee has been set up to review the whole system of local government finance.

If you want to be heard you can submit written evidence. Write to the Secretary, Committee of Inquiry into Local Government Finance, 3rd Floor, 9 Rochester Row, London SW1P 2RA, giving the date by which you will deliver your evidence and (if applicable) who you represent.

The committee's recommendations to the Secretary of State for the Environment will be made towards the end of 1975, so it will not be concerned with decisions affecting rates this year (1974-5) or next (1975-6).

Based on behalf of The Committee of Inquiry into Local Government Finance, 3rd Floor, 9 Rochester Row, London SW1P 2RA, 01-433 7823.

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WEST EUROPE

Portuguese president leaves today on historic visit to US

From Our Correspondent

Lisbon, Oct 15. Today has been a busy one in Portuguese political circles. The cabinet met this morning to discuss the economic and political problems. This afternoon the Council of State met to approve the visit of President Costa Gomes to the United States. He is due to leave tomorrow.

The cabinet also had on its agenda the consideration and approval of the nominations by the Army and Air Force of four members of the Junta of National Salvation, including General Spínola, the former president. It also will see the investiture of its new member, Professor Teixeira Ribeiro, the rector of Coimbra University.

President Costa Gomes's programme in the United States as now been announced. He will be the first Portuguese president to address the General Assembly of the United Nations, and the first to visit Washington to confer with his American counterpart.

The meeting will take place during his three-day visit, during which he will also have a working lunch with Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State. The Portuguese leader will be accompanied on his trip

by Dr Mario Soares, his Foreign Minister, and Senhor Vitor Constancio, the Secretary of State for Economic Planning.

The Bank of Portugal has intervened to control the recently constituted Banco Intercontinental Portuguese because of the latter's financial difficulties. An official report published here today states that the takeover entails the suspension of five of the bank's directors, including Senhor Jorge de Brito, its founder, and their replacement by two Government administrators.

The BIP, as it is familiarly known, was founded in March, 1972, through an amalgamation of the Augustine Reis banking house of Lisbon and Sousa Cruz of Oporto. The Finance Minister of the day authorized the transaction.

One of the new Government administrators, Dr José Pires Lourenço, told the Lisbon newspaper *Diário de Notícias* that the bank was facing serious problems of liquidity and intervention was inevitable. He stated that the bank would continue to operate normally.

Last Saturday the Government Bulletin published a decree covering state intervention in the case of any banking organization showing imbalance, and offering provision for financial support.

Britain backs Canadian move for EEC links

From Roger Berthoud

London, Oct 15. Britain today gave full support at the EEC Council of Ministers to Canada's request for a formal agreement with the Community. Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, will be visiting Brussels on October 24.

The council today approved a statement expressing its will to strengthen links with Canada as a way to be negotiated by two parties. Britain's desire for a "contractual" link to be negotiated was overruled by France.

French hostility to the energy oil sharing scheme proposed by the 12-nation energy consumers group (ECG) came out into the open in the ministers' inconclusive discussions of its compatibility with an EEC energy treaty.

France has boycotted the up, to which its eight EEC partners, the United States, Canada, Japan and Norway, had since it was set up by Washington energy conference in February. But the other 11 continue to hope France will join if the scheme is implemented under the wing of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

Speaking for Britain, Mr Roy Jenkins, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, insisted there was no incompatibility between Community energy and the EEC. If there was to be a meaningful and useful dialogue with the oil producers, there must be an agreement on a common policy on energy in a wider framework than the EEC. He said no problem in parliamentary ratification despite the loss

of sovereignty involved and a complex formula of majority voting.

But Mr Hattersley had no difficulty in endorsing the broad targets for the Community defined by M. Jean Sauvageur, the French Foreign Minister. These were: solidarity among consumer countries; worst hit by price rises; restrictions on consumption; preferably harmonized; and discussions on prices with the producers. Prices were the real problem now, so oil sharing schemes had been overtaken by events. He added that other like alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar, and research and development, were essentially Community business.

Vicomte Davignon, the Belgian chairman of the ECG, commented bitterly afterwards on France's readiness to hobnob with the Americans on energy and monetary problems along with the Germans, British and Japanese—but not within the 12. If the Nine were not present as a whole within the EEC, France was solely to blame.

The ministers agreed that a positive reply should be sent to the recent letter from the Secretary-General of COMECON, Mr Nikolai Fedayev, inviting Mr Ortoli, the President of the European Commission, to Moscow for a first contact. There are fears, however, that the Soviet dominated economic planning organization may preempt the right of east European countries to negotiate separately with the EEC.

The ministers advised that Commission officials should prepare Mr Ortoli to Moscow to prepare his visit. They also cleared away their main differences of opinion on a draft outline for trade agreements between east European countries and the Community. These will gradually replace bilateral agreements with member states.

OVERSEAS

Four leading Ministers go in Kenya election

Nairobi, Oct 15.—Four Cabinet ministers, including Dr Njoroge Mungai, the Foreign Minister, and nine assistant ministers lost their seats in Kenya's general election.

With about three-quarters of the vote counted today, it appeared that at least half the members of the old Parliament would not be returned, following the pattern set in 1969 when two thirds of the House was defeated.

Since Kenya is a one-party state, the results of the election—the second since independence 18 years ago—mean a change of personalities rather than of policy direction.

The country, under President Kenyatta, is expected to continue on its basically pro-Western, free enterprise course. Dr Mungai, aged 49, beaten by the United States-educated Dr Jobson Muthira, was the most senior government member to lose. But the defeat of Mr William Odongo Omondi, Minister for Natural Resources, might be a bigger political blow for the Government.

Mr Omondi, a successful and popular minister, suffered from the backlash in his Bondo constituency in Western Kenya against the banning of Mr Oginga Odinga, the former Vice-President.

Dr Mungai's fall from favour had been predicted because of constituency complaints that he was not doing enough for the area, despite his success as Foreign Minister and speculation at one time that he might aspire to succeed President Kenyatta.

The other defeated ministers were Mr Juxon Shako, Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, and Mr Elud Ngala Mwendwa, the Minister of Labour.

Dr Philip Leakey, the son of the late Dr Louis Leakey, the anthropologist, failed to become the first White Kenyan to be elected to Parliament but came second in the poll out of nine candidates in suburban Langata. Two government critics, Mr J. Karuri and Mr. Maria J. Seroney, both subjected to harassment during the campaign, retained their seats.

Four women were elected, including Mrs Grace Onyango. Voting at Balagawani in the Garissa district, near Kenya's border with Somalia, was nonexistent. All the voters—local nomadic tribesmen—had moved off before polling day in search of better pasture and not one vote was cast.—Reuters.

Leading article, page 15

Satellite makes perfect launch off Kenya coast

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Oct 15. After what was described by scientists as "a perfect launch" Britain's latest satellite—UK 5—went into orbit 300 kilometres above the earth today right on time at 10.47 am Kenya time.

The launch was from a converted oil rig off the coast of Kenya, about 20 miles north of the tourist resort of Malindi. As it went into orbit the satellite, designed specifically to conduct a series of experiments on X-rays, changed its name to Ariel 5. The launch vehicle was an American Scout rocket.

Japan's ill-fated nuclear ship makes it to home port

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, Oct 15. After drifting in the Pacific Ocean for 45 days, the ill-fated Mutsu, the once-proud prototype version of Japan's future nuclear-powered merchant fleet, was allowed to limp back into her home port on auxiliary diesel engines today and was immediately put in mothballs.

The 8,000-ton ship, Japan's first nuclear-powered research vessel, which was plagued by a radioactive leak soon after it set out on its first test run in late August, had been prevented from returning to its home port on the northern tip of Honshu island for seven weeks because local fishermen believed the vessel would contaminate coastal waters.

Today the fishing industry, which had thrown a blockade of small boats around the entrance of the vessel's base port in Ominato, agreed to allow the Mutsu to return under rigid conditions. The Government, which has failed to find an alternative port which will accept the ship, bowed down to the demands of the fishing industry last night as yet another complement of the vessel's crew threatened to desert.

Under the terms of the agreement the Government has been forced to deactivate and seal off the ship's reactor; place the vessel in mothballs; name an alternative port within six months; move the ship out of the area within 30 months and guarantee that no fuel rods are removed while the ship remains at berth in Ominato port.

At its wit's end, the Government also agreed to pay £1,700,000 to the local fishing industry as compensation. Of that, £440,000 will be deposited as a buffer fund to assist fishermen if rumours of contamination bring down the price of fish. The Government also bowed down and agreed to build the port a sports centre at a cost of £145,000.

The ironic tale of the Mutsu, which was designed to become the world's fourth nuclear-powered merchant vessel—after the icebreaker the Lemnig, the



Mr Gordon Liddy leaves court in Washington after his release from jail.

Further questions raised for Mr Rockefeller

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Oct 15. Mr Nelson Rockefeller today faced questioning on yet another issue in what is turning into an obstacle race for congressional confirmation as Vice-President.

It concerns two rulings by Mr Nixon when President in favour of Eastern Airlines. Mr Rockefeller's brother, Laurence, is the airline's principal shareholder.

In reporting the new questions, *The New York Times* notes that all sources it contacted stated there was no evidence of any connection between the rulings and large Rockefeller family contributions to Mr Nixon's reelection campaign. However, it stated that the

House judiciary committee planned to raise the matter in its hearings.

The questions concern Eastern's acquisition of a Caribbean feeder operator. The Civil Aeronautics Board twice refused permission for the acquisition but Mr Nixon, citing "foreign policy", twice overruled the board, as was his prerogative.

Mr Rockefeller today responded in testy fashion to reporters' inquiries outside his New York office. Without actually complaining, he described the investigation into his affairs as without parallel.

He is not accurate since Mr Ford, as the first nominated Vice-President, underwent similar intrusion and scrutiny.

Israel denounces UN's invitation to guerrillas

From Eric Marsden

Jerusalem, Oct 15

Israel today angrily denounced the United Nations invitation to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to take part in next month's Palestine debate as illegal and damaging to peace efforts. The United Nations decision, although expected, has caused deep gloom here.

The American vote against the invitation to the PLO provided the only ray of light for Israelis, who are incensed over the votes in favour cast by France and Italy and regard the abstentions by Britain and other European countries as cowardly fence-sitting. The evening newspaper *Maariv* says the United Nations has "given the green light to political assassins everywhere".

A Foreign Ministry statement made clear that the vote was not binding on Israel and said it showed the prejudice of the current membership of the General Assembly. The PLO, the statement said, was not a liberation movement but "a roof organization for terrorist groups". The vote, which struck at the roots of Israel's existence, could sabotage peace efforts.

The action of France and Italy was shocking, as both had suffered terrorist activities on their soil.

Mrs Golda Meir, the former Prime Minister, said the United Nations was bringing in people who had originated the killing of innocent air passengers as "a prize for their ingenuity".

The row over illegal Jewish settlement in the west bank is threatening to cause a rift in the Israeli Labour Party leadership. Mr Moshe Dayan's signing

of the opposition petition calling for the retention of all of the west bank by Israel is being seen as a challenge to the authority of the Prime Minister. Mr Rabin, who has expressed willingness to make limited territorial concessions in peace negotiations.

Peter Strafford writes from New York: Representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization in New York have reacted jubilantly to yesterday's vote at the United Nations inviting them to take part in next month's debate on Palestine.

"This will make it a little harder for other parties to exclude us from decision-making on the Middle East," Dr Nabil Shaath, the leader of the PLO delegation, told a press conference last night. He added that there was "quite a probability" that Mr Arafat would come to New York for the debate.

Rabat, Oct 15.—The United States and Algeria are prepared to resume diplomatic relations after a seven-year break caused by the 1967 Middle East war, American officials said today.

Dr Henry Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, wound up his seven-day tour of Arab states and Israel with a four-hour visit here for talks with King Hassan of Morocco. But the restoration of American-Algerian relations is not expected until after a crucial Arab summit meeting in Morocco on October 26, which could make or break Dr Kissinger's plans for the next stage in a Middle East peace settlement.

In Moscow it was announced that Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist Party leader, will go to Cairo for a summit meeting with President Sadat of Egypt next January.—Reuters.

Mr Ford wins the battle over Turkish military aid

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Oct 15

The House of Representatives today failed to overturn President Ford's veto of legislation prohibiting military aid to Turkey. The vote was 223-135—17 short of the two-thirds voting majority required to overturn it and a slender but vital victory for President Ford in this first showdown with Congress of his young Presidency.

Since a veto needs to be sustained in only one house of Congress the Senate vote is now irrelevant. However, the result of the parliamentary saga means fresh legislation is required to fund critical Government departments such as Health, Edu-

cation and Welfare, Agriculture and Labour.

The ban on aid to Turkey—as protest over its part in the Cyprus debacle—had been attached to a resolution continuing this and other funds which had expired on September 30. The veto now sustained kills that legislation—and a disgruntled Congress, itching to be off electioneering, must now pass a new funding measure before recessing—or else the departments, in theory, grind to a halt.

With this respite—for some congressmen still talk of again attaching the Turkey rider to the new legislation—President Ford can set off electioneering in the Midwest on his own later today.

Joint plan urged for Concorde's successor

From Arthur Read

San Francisco, Oct 15

Leaders of the world aerospace industry predicted that financial and technological demands of future large aircraft projects would force countries to cooperate on their development at a conference which opened today.

Mr Dan Houghton, chairman of Lockheed said: "New and very large programmes, like a second generation supersonic transport will require a collaborative effort, and I would like to see the United States and Britain and France and others team up on this one."

"Other countries are no longer content with small and simple subcontracting jobs. They want a bigger piece of the pie. And they do not want just a piece of the pie, they want to learn the recipe, they want help in setting up the oven, and they want to wear a chef's hat."

"There seems to be a growing feeling that America ought to lead technology the way we have led, in some sort of technological Fort Knox. What we seem to be afraid of is raising up future competitors that will beat us with our own technology. This is a false fear. You do not compete with current technology, you compete with new technology. The secret of our success has been technical progress, not technical insularity."

Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of Rolls-Royce, told the conference, which is organized by the *Financial Times*, that the cost of developing an advanced new engine was now so high that it was unlikely that any new engine would ever again be launched except on a collaborative basis.

It had been reasoned that if the European air transport industry could be coordinated with routes and frequencies properly rationalized, then the equipment requirements for the airlines of Europe could be standardized and a large captive market created, big enough to provide a safe market for European commercial aircraft and engine manufacturers.

"Although I am a keen European and see the Common Market as being essential to the economic and political stability of Europe, I am convinced that such thinking is quite unrealistic and in the long term would prove disastrous for aircraft and engine companies of Europe."

Sir Kenneth said any large new civil project must be aimed first and foremost at meeting the requirements of the United States market.

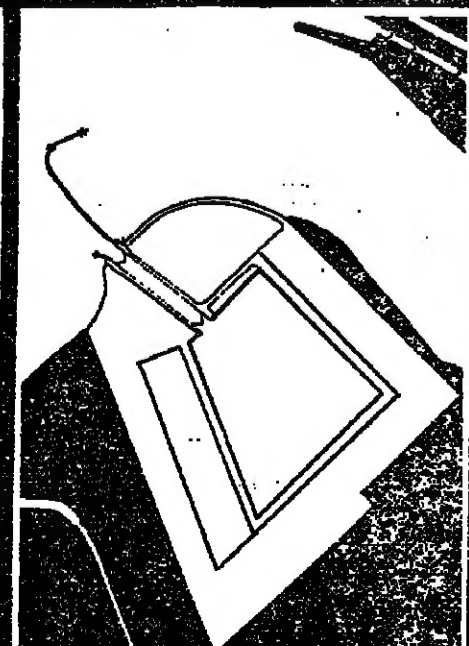
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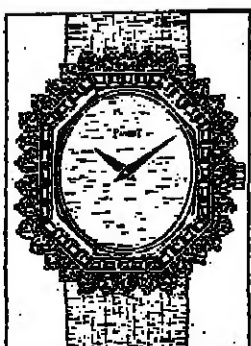
A wide place will be taken by the finest watches Piaget have ever produced—their magnificent centenary designs.

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PARLIAMENT, Oct. 15, 1974

Effort to cut rate of price increases needed from Britain

European Parliament,

Strasbourg, 15 Oct. — A motion was approved in the European Parliament, which calls for a "comparatively high rate of inflation and negative balance of payments" to be reduced. The motion also calls for the Community to "concentrate their efforts on slowing down the rise and correcting the balance of payments in order to establish conditions for a more balanced economic growth".

The motion was adopted by 100 votes to 50. It was introduced by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, which is responsible for the Community's annual report on the state of the economy.

The motion also considered that the Community should "combat the alarming rise in prices and efforts to prevent a serious economic recession should be the priority of the Community's economic policy".

The motion also calls for the Community to "follow a policy of 'careful selective expansion'".

The motion deplores that most member states had not reduced the rate of inflation and that the Community had not been able to achieve a "stable and balanced" economic growth.

The motion also calls for the Community to "set up a system for issuing Community bonds on the international capital markets, on the understanding that the Community should be able to raise the necessary funds to assist members in deficit".

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fish policy

The commission's report for the Kingdom concluded that the fish policy must continue to be directed essentially at limiting the growth of domestic demand and consumer expenditure in order to achieve a substantial and lasting reduction in the balance of payments deficit by curbing imports of fish and fish products.

It was important that the Commission should be able to limit the use in prices and money incomes. Substantial progress in the fight against inflation was necessary to preserve a high level of employment in the longer term.

JEAN-ERIC BOUSCH

(France, DEP), rapporteur for the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, said that in the rate of inflation and in the balance of payments deficit, only Germany was doing better than most.

Any measures of monetary support to member states run a current deficit should be within the framework of Community procedures. Bilateral measures were generally unacceptable, although it was recognised that some countries had to accept them, subject to certain conditions.

RR ERWIN LANGE

(Germany, Soc Dem), on behalf of the group, said that member states who were to be assisted must be prepared to accept certain conditions and bilateral measures be embedded in Community procedures.

ROBERT HOUGARD

(Luxembourg, L), on behalf of the group, said that a high rate of inflation was a direct attack on the Community's stability and that the use of money printing was a dangerous and irresponsible policy.

BRANDY REYS-WILS

(Belgium, C), on behalf of the group, said that the long-term problem was not the balance of payments but the balance of power between the Community and the industrialised nations.

balance of payments

balance of payments problems were becoming more dangerous, but for the oil problem, balance of payments deficits were manageable, within a reasonable period of time but the balance of payments deficits could not be reduced by methods of monetary contraction alone in industrialised countries, nor by energy saving measures, nor by a resort to direct restrictions.

Community faced the danger of a balance of payments deficit, which could lead to a loss of confidence in the Community's ability to manage its own affairs.

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How determined community action brought results in a developer's desert

The plot of land in the adjoining picture, within a stone's throw of Euston Station, does not look like the site of a famous victory, but in a small way it is.

For years it was just a piece of derelict land no larger than a tennis court, a home for rubbish and parked cars. Now it is a garden, with seats, flowers and a lawn at one end, and a children's playground at the other.

It lies in "Tollmers Village", an area of largely blighted land where about 700 people of many races live between the huge Euston Centre office towers to the west and Euston Station to the east. This is the area in which the same interests who developed the Euston Centre, the Stock Conversion Group, have been buying up property for years with a view to a second massive development—now likely to be frustrated by residents and Camden Council.

It is the only public recreation space in an area that has been made a desert by developers, and it is there as a result of determined and fruitful action by the residents through their local community group, the Tollmers Village Association, which succeeded, not without difficulty, in persuading the owners of the site, who have a small factory adjoining, that a garden would be better than a dump.

The owners, not unnaturally from their point of view since they wanted to develop the site, at first strongly resisted attempts by the residents to do anything with it at all. They refused permission for a bonfire last autumn and a playground in the spring, despite support by the council and the residents' offer to meet all costs, including

insurance. However, comprehensive plans for the area meant that development delays could be interminable, and the residents decided on direct action.

One day in April they moved in force, clearing away and burning rubbish, and levelling and tidying the site. They put a notice on it saying, "This site has been taken over by the people of Tollmers Village for a garden."

They explained: "We are fed up with a system which allows absentee landlords and owners of property to do what they like with their property regardless of the local community. This site has been vacant for years in an area where there is nowhere for kids to play, nowhere for old people to sit, no trees, no gardens, and nowhere for community events."

Presented with a fait accompli (and no doubt resigning themselves to the inevitable), the owners relented, and not only let the site to the association for £1 a year (thus preventing the establishment of squatters' rights) but also gave £25 towards a garden.

Other gifts followed. A local businessman gave benches, people gave paint and plants. The council gave topsoil, turf, and gardening tools. One large firm with an office in the neighbourhood gave £1,000.

The garden has flourished. Local teenagers made a wooden fort for the younger children in turn helped to make the garden. They even take their shoes off on the little lawn, which looks fresh and green. About 50 attended regular playgroups there this summer.

It is a notable victory but a tiny one. There remains nowhere for games for older children, though a perfect size



stands near by. This is Tollmers Square itself, the space bounded by two crescents of Victorian housing, occupied until last summer by a cinema. It is owned by Stock Conversion.

It was by all accounts a delightful cinema, one of the "cheapest in the United Kingdom" at 25p a seat and well patronised by local students and pensioners.

Stock Conversion closed it in 1972 and last year, despite a

residents' petition, bulldozed it down. Since then the land has stood idle, protected by barbed wire from attempts to use or enjoy it. Questioned about the barbed wire, Stock Conversion said that to allow this flat piece of cleared land to be used "might create safety problems."

Stock Conversion collected rents of over £5m last year. Net revenue after tax £1.289m.

Michael Bailey

The Mallorcs and Medleys against the Famous Five

"It'll never get well if you pick it", they say, and I don't want to prolong the general irritation over Enid Blyton and her critics with yet another scratchy contribution. Nevertheless, my last article, prompted by Barbara Stoney's recent biography, called forth some anguished letters, whose standard arguments for the defence, based on "popularity", at least helped to isolate a crucial point of difference between supporters and opponents. The quarrel is less about Miss Blyton's books than about the place of reading in a child's life.

A public account of the case for "The Famous Five" appeared in an article in *New Society* on September 19. Here, M. S. Woods, a senior educational psychologist, outlined the details of a survey which he undertook among schoolteachers, the majority of whom are found "to accept Enid Blyton's books quite cheerfully". Filled with confidence by such backing, Mr Woods proceeded to advance what is essentially a social justification for the books in question. Encouraging children to read via Enid Blyton can be seen as part of the fashionable "child-centred" approach to education, where you begin at the point of the child's own interests.

Promoting Enid Blyton among children is likewise forwarding "enterprising" rather than "improvement" and acknowledging our present acceptance of "the phenomena of mass appeal." ("It is not necessary for something to be deep

or permanent for it to have merit.") Most of all, Mr Woods is pleased with his survey because it gives evidence of how much more relaxed our literary standards are and how willingly today we let the child go his own way without forcing our opinions upon him.

Now I bow to none in my desire that children should enjoy their childhood to the utmost, and I have long agreed that playing with plasticine is more interesting than learning Greek (which was fashionable education for primary school children a few hundred years ago); but I do question how far Mr Woods has concerned himself with the nature of the child's enjoyment of literature. Is the pleasure derived from *Noddy* and *The Footers* of exactly the same character as that derived from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*? If so will it remain the same for each book after 10 consecutive readings? And will these two stories leave exactly the same impression on the child in his recollections of the experience of reading?

Mr Woods is a senior educational psychologist and he will probably know the answer to these questions (if he doesn't he may well undertake a survey among teachers to find out), but my own, entirely subjective, opinion is that the pleasure which a child takes in books at any one time is highly variable, and that it is the critic's job to point a way towards those which offer the possibility of the most intense enjoyment. To Mr Woods (who says that literary pundits are

baddies) this will doubtless smack of a disguised wish to "improve"—and indeed, if deepening a child's enjoyment or extending his knowledge is "improvement" then plenty of people may be glad to plead guilty.

The real trouble with my argument is, of course, that intensity of enjoyment may have to be correlated with effort. To get a lot out, you may have to put a lot in. ("Mummy, why does Beatrix Potter say that Alexander Pig is 'hopelessly volatile'?" This regrettable truth can be very aptly illustrated for defenders of "The Famous Five" by the publication last month of *Harrow and Harvest* (Kestrel, £1.95)—the last of a group of five books by Barbara Willard chronicling the affairs of a family in Sussex during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (another Sussex historical to stand beside Rudyard Kipling and Rosemary Sutcliffe?).

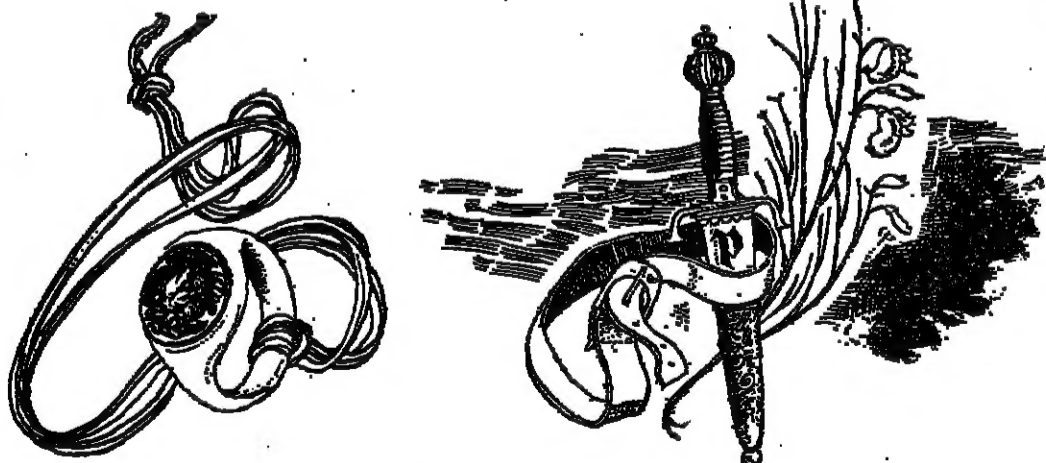
It is not impossible to believe that the first book of the group, a romantic tale called *The Lark and the Laurel*, might be read by some of the pre-adolescents who are mentioned in Mr Woods's article, and, in mechanical terms, it is possible to see such readers taking pleasure in the "series"—returning volume by volume to a known territory. But what matters here is not the pleasure in the series (which is added as a major argument for the Blyton series) but being drawn into Barbara Willard's highly individual portrayal of Mantlemass, her place, and "the

Mallorcs and Medleys", her people. Reading through the books from first to last—which is the only advisable way—the reader secures not the pleasure of an adventure story unfolding itself predictably, but an altogether sharper sense of the human vulnerability and courage that underlie all adventure. For despite the often touching romanticism of the first two books, Miss Willard goes on to take her readers into some of the grimmer trackways of her chosen period, and in *Harrow and Harvest* she chooses to conclude with an optimism so tempered by a sense of violent change that a series which began on the edge of costume drama takes on the ambiguities and half-lights of historic truth.

"The Mantlemass Novels" may not be absolute masterpieces. They will certainly not be read with unreflecting ease. But the child who does read them will carry away an enjoyment that has to do with humane letters and not with temporary relaxation among "the phenomena of mass appeal".

The Mantlemass Novels are, in order: *The Lark and the Laurel*; *The Sprig of Broom*; *A Cold Wind Blowing*; *The Iron Lily*; and *Harrow and Harvest*. They are all published by Kestrel Books and paperback editions are gradually appearing from Puffin Books.

Brian Alderson



"Two recurrent symbols from Barbara Willard's family chronicle: The family ring and the dagger of Richard Plantagenet."

A human touch in solving the telephone answering problem

How to get the telephone answered pleasantly and intelligently during their absence is a problem for people like me who work freelance or run other kinds of business from home.

The professional answering services available in some large cities are generally very expensive. Machines, too, are costly, many callers hate and refuse to use them, and their value is further limited by their inability to deliver a personal message to a specific individual.

My solution to this problem was to ring the welfare people at my local town hall and ask if they could name a house-bound person who had a telephone and would be willing to take my messages on an ad hoc basis. The result was an introduction to Eva who is mentally alert but crippled with arthritis and lives alone.

contact the Post Office subscriber transfer service (which operates throughout the country), give my number and ask to have incoming calls referred to Eva until further notice. As calls come in, the transfer operator intercepts and gives the caller Eva's number.

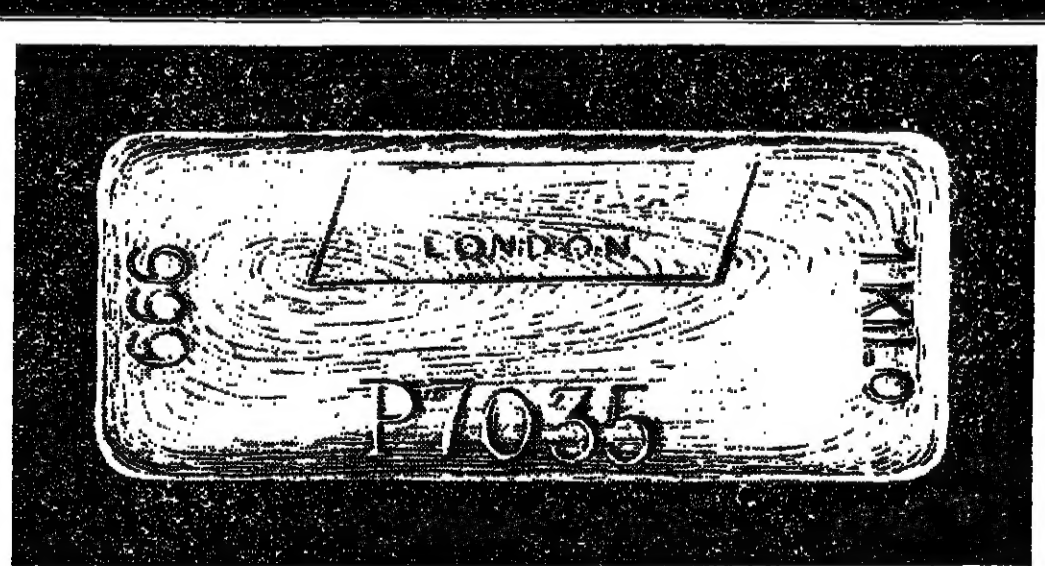
Normally, no prior warning to Eva is necessary as our arrangement is a standing one. If, however, I shall be away for more than a day or want a message delivered to some particular caller, I ring her first. On my return home, I ask the transfer operator to restore my phone to normal service and ring Eva my messages.

Both of us benefit from this arrangement. I have that almost unheard-of luxury, a completely personal service, at a price I can afford. Eva, whose opportunities for employment are very limited, has a not too demanding job that gives her more contact with the outside world

than she would otherwise have. I pay her personally in cash each month. During these visits (which, in other circumstances, I might be too lazy to make) we have a cup of tea, and a chat and I bring some small luxury such as a bunch of flowers or a bag of sweets.

Like any other arrangement, ours is not entirely foolproof. Occasionally Eva cannot answer her phone; once in a while the transfer operator misses a call (incidentally, the Post Office is now carrying out a pilot experiment with automatic transfer which, if successful, may be generally available towards the end of next year). A few callers seem unable to understand the system and think my number has been permanently changed. Nevertheless, it works a good deal better than either of the alternatives.

Laura Tatham



SILVER KILOBAR PAPERWEIGHT

"A solid investment" — *The Times*.

"If you fancy a small gamble on silver, and could do with an unusual paperweight as well, take a look at this Kilobar Paperweight." — *The Financial Times*.

The above drawing shows the actual-sized Silver Kilobar Paperweight, which measures 4½ inches x 2 inches x ½ inch, and contains over 2.2 pounds of pure silver. Each bar is presented in its own velvet-lined case, and makes an ideal gift. We will engrave your name, initials, message, etc., on the ingot, with no extra cost for up to 25 letters. Each Silver Kilobar is stamped with the dealer's mark, seal and number, as well as '1 KILO' and '999' (the fraction of pure silver in the bar). The value of silver quadrupled in the 2 years ending February 1974. In fact the value of silver more than doubled in the first 2 months of this year. Each Kilobar should therefore be considered as an heirloom investment.

Today's price of the Silver Kilobar Paperweight is £125* (inc. V.A.T.). This price also includes the presentation case, engraving and insured delivery. Immediate despatch for the first 50 ingots ordered. Otherwise delivery is 10-25 days.

*Today's price guaranteed for all orders received within 10 days.

HERITAGE CLUB, 407 Holloway Rd., London N7 6HJ. Tel: 01-607 1620/9. Telex: 262420.

I would like to order _____ Silver Kilobar Paperweight(s) at £125 Each* (inc. V.A.T.).

Please accept my enclosed cheque for £ _____.

Please engrave the following: _____

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ADDRESS _____

Research fund urged for paper and forestry

on the problems of the paper and paperboard industry was approved. It recognised the Commission's view that conservation of paper and paperboard the Community had been more steeply than production in many years. The Commission had to depend more on imports.

Motion considered there were possibilities for achieving satisfactory results through Community policy and urged the Commission to give priority to the industry to ensure future material supplies.

It was noted that raw materials would become increasingly scarce as the Community's short supply of the economic forestry resources continued to decline. Recycling waste should therefore, together with other raw materials, be the same importance as conservation.

Committee wanted the Commission to put forward proposals for a special research fund for the paper and forestry sectors, together with regular forecasts of future consumption, investment and production in the industry.

Parliament agreed that any necessary aid for structural reform should be in the form of loans, not subsidies, and member states in the meantime should not introduce national aid.

Call for extradition of war criminal

Parliament approved an emergency motion calling on the Government of Paraguay to extradite to France the Nazi war criminal Hans Barbie.

Members heard that he was sentenced to death in 1952 in France, in his absence, for crimes he committed while he was head of the Gestapo in Lyons. He was said to have admitted condemning thousands of Frenchmen to death. He had been seen in Peru, Bolivia and was now in Paraguay.

Cash card fraud

Tours, Oct. 15.—An electronics manufacturer has obtained 50,000 francs (£5,450) from automatic money machines in four French cities, police said here.

The man telephoned bank customers and persuaded them to reveal their cash card numbers. He was caught when his falsified cash card blocked a machine.—Reuter.

iss radar

ich, Oct. 15.—Austria has an anti-missile radar system from the Swiss Contraves here, company said.

mobile system, named ard, is designed for use weather conditions, and effective against missiles at very low altitudes.—

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

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THE ARTS



'Gregory Masurovsky and Shirley Goldfarb' and 'Two Vases in the Louvre'

Confrontation at the Louvre

David Hockney
 Musée des Arts
 Décoratifs

Michael Ratcliffe

French exhibition catalogues, when they are not growing under the self-imposed discipline of Structuralism, are inclined to rejoice in the austerity of their documentation. "Les personnages," visitors to David Hockney's first solo Paris show can read of the showing homosexual couple in domestic scenes, Los Angeles (1963), "some inspired by the Journal Physique Pictorial". How deadpan, how faintly incredulous, is the sound of that confrontation between the artist and a new public. "Hockney," we see a little later, "est un grand amateur des villes d'eau". Gallic eyebrows rise.

For confrontation it is, and one that seems to have been planned, with an almost deliberate irony, to take place at the very heart of French civilisation. The Musée des Arts Décoratifs is no less than

Like the *Contrejour*, *Two Vases in the Louvre* (1974) is virtually devoid of figures (unless you count the vases) and revives rather the classic Impressionist problems of colour, space and light. In an interview Hockney remarks that the Impressionists were not only more revolutionary artists than the painters of the Salon, but that they actually painted prettier pictures. In both of these new works he shows strong evidence of responsiveness to masterpieces of the *Jeune École*, particularly to the pasty hot afternoon light of Monet and the pointillist textures of Seurat. He has not abandoned figure-painting: *Gregory Masurovsky and Shirley Goldfarb* (1974), the double portrait of a smiling writer and a very angry lady, not to mention their crisp little dog, is one of the funniest he has done.

Hockney picked the paintings for the show himself. Alan Bowness chose the drawings and has striven neither the early graffiti style nor the consummate draughtsmanship of the line-

Out of the mental home into dementia

The Looneys
 Hampstead

Charles Lewsen

John Antrous bases his new play on the premise that the section between sanity and insanity is not objectively measurable, and that the only way any of us can hope to stay outside a mental institution is by observing the eleventh commandment and not being found out.

He has loaded, if not invalidated, his case by having his two old daughters, Katy is alcoholic and his 18-year-old son Roger is homosexual, follows congenitally, if not inevitably.

Michael Rudman's production goes for dementia from the start: Marcella Markham's Mother, in a crimson sheath dress, stalks the stage like a Chas Addams vampire, and Jane Wymark's Katy, eyes glazed and shoulders hunched, slips her whisky, her knees obsessively pressed together. Only Simon Rouse's sensitive Roger presents a challenge to Antrous's premise.

The cartoon effect is perhaps true to a piece which offers a continuous stream of jokes. However, it causes the players

Berlin disappointed with Britten opera

The German premiere of Britten's opera *Death in Venice* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin provides a disappointing evening, aside from a few rewarding aspects. One can perhaps best describe the overall impression created as static.

Anthony Beech, fetched from England to stage this production, received brickbats rather than bouquets from Berlin critics. Certainly much of the blame for the evening's failure to satisfy must rest upon him. However, the designer Jürgen Henze has done little to help him. As altogether admirable performance of the leading role by the American tenor Donald Grove, long a leading singer here, and good, considered work by Gerd Albrecht and the orchestra unfortunately do not salvage the performance. On the opening night an overheard predominantly disenchanted reactions, and when the second half began, pairs of empty seats punctuated the auditorium.

Any stage work in which the only real drama—and, if you will, action—takes place inside one human being's head presents a stage director of less than genius with almost insurmountable difficulties. In spite of Myfanwy Piper's adaptation, Mann's tale remains restricted almost entirely to the remote realm of soliloquy and interior monologue. This means that the sung word becomes a mere vehicle for the story, and the story, in turn, is reduced to a series of static poses. The various parts seem to add up to a whole in what is essentially an improvisatory art, a stylized abstraction of popular and classical guitar techniques. An interesting concert, none the less; musically, it is not revealing, but thrilling for the numerous guitar aficionados who packed the hall.

Gillian Thoday (cello) also lacked character, so that there was little question of her lifting each out of the academics into an arresting contemporary life. She was insufficiently eloquent for Henze's declamatory and bitter *Serenade*, but in Martin's vivacious if derivative second sonata her playing became more committed, and Catherine Dubois, her accompanist, was certainly deft enough for the busy capers of the finale.

Finally it was difficult to seriously consider a pretentious claim that the Metamusic Ensemble offers a unique experience. Stockhausen's *Piano Piece 9* has had more than a good word from the academics in the past. He is well remembered for a series of superb performances at Covent Garden under the baton of Sir John Pritchard.

London debuts

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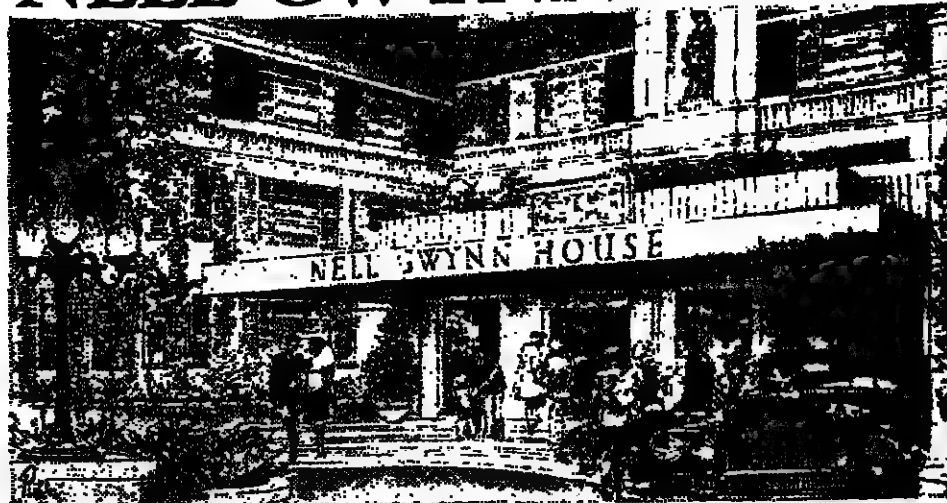
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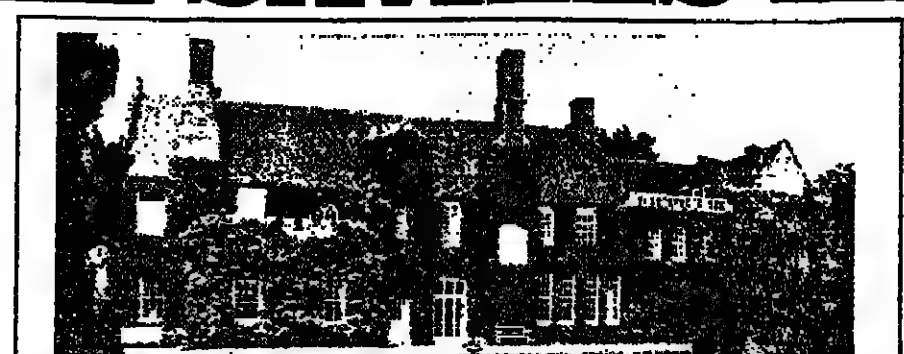
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SPACIOUS DETACHED HOUSE (originally a Coach House). Good hall, cloakroom, shower, drawing room, dining room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil-fired C.H. Double garage. 5 Loose Boxes, additional buildings. Pleasant garden with pond, 4 paddocks, about 31 Acres. FREEHOLD. £209,500. Harrods Estate Offices, as above, ext. 2809.

CLAREMONT PARK, ESHER, SURREY

Quietly situated on the beautiful Claremont estate, in a beautiful garden setting. Use of estate's

DETACHED COTTAGE STYLE HOUSE. 4 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil-fired C.H. Double garage. 5 Loose Boxes, additional buildings. Pleasant garden with pond, 4 paddocks, about 31 Acres. FREEHOLD. £209,500. Harrods Estate Offices, as above, ext. 2809.

SCOTLAND—ISLE OF MULL

Charming ferry 2 miles. Beautifully situated position overlooking Loch Don and the Firth of Clyde.

TRADITIONAL STONE BUILT COTTAGE. 2 reception rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil-fired C.H. Double garage. 5 Loose Boxes, additional buildings. Pleasant garden with pond, 4 paddocks, about 31 Acres. FREEHOLD. £209,500. Harrods Estate Offices, as above, ext. 2809.

WOKING, SURREY

On a private estate, close to all amenities.

SPACIOUS WELL APPOINTED MODERN HOUSE (with 6 1/2 acres ground). 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hall, cloakroom, open plan kitchen/dining room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, oil-fired C.H. Double garage. 5 Loose Boxes, additional buildings. Pleasant garden with pond, 4 paddocks, about 31 Acres. FREEHOLD. £209,500. Harrods Estate Offices, as above, ext. 2809.

OTTERTY, ST. MARY, DEVON

In a delightful unspoilt hamlet.

4 miles from Exeter. 17th century farmhouse. Restored and refitted, etc. Dining hall, lounge, sitting room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil-fired C.H. Double garage. 5 Loose Boxes, additional buildings. Pleasant garden with pond, 4 paddocks, about 31 Acres. FREEHOLD. £209,500. Harrods Estate Offices, as above, ext. 2809.

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WOKING, SURREY

Eric Moonman

Give your MP a little tolerance and time

Dear Elector,

It's too late now to change your vote for your MP. But may I pass on a few home truths?

Election campaigning is necessarily an artificial exercise and is becoming more so. The conventions of our democratic society demand that we candidates talk about our intentions and our policies and that we try to dislodge the opposition's case thereby, on your doorstep or at a village hall meeting. Meanwhile, you are busy deceiving the pollsters and canvassers and the pollsters and more than likely telling them what they want to hear. I can't complain about that. After all, as some of you are fond of saying, it is supposed to be a secret ballot. There is a theory that the reason why we tend to get over-optimistic forecasts of Labour voting figures is that traditional Conservative either refuse to co-operate with the pollsters altogether (and good luck to them) or deliberately mislead them in a sophisticated political endeavour to produce just such erroneous forecasts as we have recently experienced.

You are rarely as interested in politics as party workers assume. Politicians are talking to you, among many else, football, golf or just plain indifference. In fact, an established polling station in Basildon at a central community centre could not be used last Thursday because its officers felt the regular evening bingo should take precedence over the election.

Whatever is said or done during an election campaign, no candidate ever tells you what he really thinks of you even when you refuse to pay him the same courtesy. Those are the rules. Most of you are very civilised, I should hasten to say, but some are rude and even more are impatient.

You expect swift replies to your letters, election or no election and most of us do our best to comply. But what strange compulsion leads a satisfied constituent to say, at the end of a "thank you" letter—"I'm still not going to vote for you"? I think to cherish a few illusions. After the February election I had an angry letter within 10 days from a constituent who pointed out that "Labour has broken its election promise—you have not abolished the Melpin project".

I am making a plea for reasonableness on the part of the electorate. Most of the letters I receive, and they are many since I represent nearly 95,000 electors, contain justifiable complaints but some are hopelessly aggressive and, of course, a few are very sick.

Don't ask the impossible—I cannot halt the process of law, or alter your position on the housing list, or influence the local council in planning decisions. I can see that they are aware of the situation, know about your views and can frequently cut through bureaucratic red tape.

If your MP is a first-dimmer, give him a chance to get to know the ropes. The House of Commons is a very complex set-up and he may think he knows the place but it's a good nine months before he may be certain of interpreting accurately the mood and decision-making processes of Parliament and Ministers.

The working conditions in Parliament are grotesque. I

have spoken to many new MPs who felt that they could not do the sort of job that they were able to do and felt that they had been elected to do, because of poor servicing.

Whichever party wins an election, it needs tolerance and time. Of course, I wanted Labour to win but I would make the same plea whichever party was now in power. It takes time to formulate policies and put them into effect, and longer still for the effects to work their way through to the electorate—so don't be too hasty with your judgments.

The contemporary social climate with its accelerating pace of change places a premium on the doing rather than how it's done. Instant politics appears to be the name of the game. One of the hazards inherent in the emergence of small alternative parties, I am afraid, is that they breed a demand for quick superficial answers to problems that just cannot be solved simply and quickly. Community politics can bring a modest degree of success—every MP knows—but there are limitations to what one can do. We clearly cannot run a national party on this basis, a fact which may well account for the disastrous reduction in Jeremy Thorpe's support last week.

If some of the trends which began to appear in the election continue, those held in 20 years' time could be extremely bizarre. Instead of appearing on your doorstep or holding public meetings and walking about the party leaders will appear only on television, while local candidates will be found not in your local High Street but at the end of a telephone. At least 200 candidates in the south-east operated "phone-ins" from their campaign headquarters during this election. One candidate offered a 24-hour service, and he remained diligently on the phone only venturing out on Saturday mornings. As someone who got away through two and three times a day nearly every day in the three weeks of the campaign, I speak feelingly when I say that this seems to me to be the negation of what elections are about. The Isaac Asimov fantasy, *The Franchise*, describing an election in which the pattern of the next four years is laid down by one average man chosen by computer to vote for the whole of the American population does not seem so far away.

The move away from personalised local and national campaigns could be hastened if there is any further escalation of violence in public places. The risk of bombs being planted will empty halls of even the few faithful who now turn out to hear their candidate, while party leaders who draw the crowds will be reluctant to risk so many lives.

But it would be a sad day for you if elections by remote control through television and telephone became the common pattern. For the loss of direct contact with candidates and party leaders would inevitably lead to a dehumanising of politics and open the way still further to the projection of images rather than men—Big Brother is looking after, if not watching, you.

The author is Labour MP for Basildon.

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Tories must look before they leap into line behind a new leader

Bernard Levin

And so to the Conservatives. What a cowardly rabble they can be when they set their minds to it! It is clear that, barring a catastrophe that would in any case sweep the Tories back to power even if they were led by me, Mr. Maurice Macmillan, the present Government is going to be in power for two or three years. That being so, common sense, which demands that they take their time over the question of the leadership, fits perfectly with opportunity, which says that they have plenty of time to take. Yet before the final result was in, the Conservative Party had little Mr. Winterton, Lord Hugh Uvula to the Ted-Must-Go choir.

You are the hare of whom the proverb goes, whose valour plucks dead lions by the beard.

And he is not the only one either. But assuming (a large assumption) that there are enough men of sense and weight in the Tory Party to stop them from throwing Mr. Heath overboard at least until they have discovered whether there is anybody else among the crew who knows the difference between starboard and a marlinpike, or even until they have decided which way they want to go, there should be time for the dust to settle, and for Mr. Heath's qualities and position to be soberly evaluated, not least by him.

For the Tory Party, before getting out of the hole it is in, might do well to stop and wonder whether it needs a better one. Indeed, let us wonder on its behalf. Mr. Maundling being ruled out, and Mr. Enoch Powell being gone over the water (and me never suspecting that himself was the brook of an Irish lad, at all, and that he was either a friend of the Little People since he was no higher than one of them, and the way of him, at all, and the Irish like of his voice, at all, and his saintly and his tweeds, at all, and his manly count from Carrigrohane and his Clonsilla, and nobody knows of it until he told us, the day one that he is, and sure and he's lost to us for ever until Brian Boru himself wakes from his long sleep, and there he'll be, our Enoch, with Ceilín

of Houltham and the Shan Van Voght, at all, and the starlight in his eyes on the hills, and Robert Emmet and Wolfe Tone and Pearse and Connolly, or have I got it wrong, well, no matter for that, I'll be in good luck if I have at all, and him after leading Ireland to glory, at all, and I think I'll be after having done about enough of this now, bejassus, six names have been mentioned, since it was clear that the Tories had lost the election, as possible successors to Mr. Heath, the names being, in no particular order, Whitelaw, Carr, Thatcher, du Cann, Soames and Joseph.

Mr. Whitelaw is what might be called the peace-and-quiet candidate, the amiable fellow whom nobody needs a sprig of holly in his hair to be mistaken for a Christmas pudding. Choose him, the argument runs, and the nation will rush to his warm and kindly embrace as to that of a favourite uncle. Unfortunately, something rather more is required for a party leader these days than a benign and soothing demeanour. Apart from intellect, something like a recognisable political philosophy would be a distinct advantage. Mr. Whitelaw is not a writer, on one side of a sheet of paper, just what it is that Mr. Whitelaw stands for? You may reply that Sir Alec was not precisely a combination of the Brain of Britain and Disraeli, but it would not be the happiest of examples, since the point of Sir Alec's tenure of office was that Mr. Wilson ate him alive, in Parliament and out. Mr. Whitelaw would be cut to shreds in a month.

Mr. Carr, then? Well, he would be the first identikit picture to become leader of the Conservative Party, but he would do it no good. Nobody from one end of the country to the other, has ever heard of Mr. Carr, and if he becomes leader and remains leader for 40 years, that will remain true. Mr. Carr is a decent and intelligent man, but tested by the reliable Piff-Pforasheim method, his personality runs clean off the scale on the minus side.

That, at any rate, is not a charge that can be levelled at Mr. Thatcher. Pause there, Margaret, and weigh thy value with an even hand... What if I stay'd no further, but chose to go to the part with there's precedent for it, Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Bandaranaike and Mrs. Gandhi may not be the greatest national leaders the world has ever seen, but none of them has done notably worse than her male predecessors. Mrs. Thatcher is a gifted and practical politician, whose formidable strength of character belies that Dresden appearance. She would need time to accustom the people to the oddity of it, but time is the one thing the Tories have. And yet I do not think they will do it, and I am not certain that they would be wise to. The mail chauvinism of the people of this country, particularly the women, is still deep-seated, and it would be a severe handicap. Beside, there is the too-cool exterior (if only she would burst into tears occasionally); if the voters would not warm to Mr. Heath, they are unlikely to warm to Mrs. Thatcher, and there is no point in the party jumping out of the igloo and onto the glacier.

There is Mr. du Cann, of course (the part will be played, in the forthcoming film of his life, by Mr. Valentine Durrill), but I must suggest that he is not intended seriously. There is Sir Keith Joseph, the most interesting of the contenders, with by far the most coherent and distinctive philosophy, but the Tories would have to be quite sure that they want to change direction sharply, and there is as yet no sign that they do. There is Sir Christopher Soames, but that choice would mark a disastrous return to a bygone day. The Tory Party is already dangerously classified, in far too many minds which it has to reach to succeed, as being out of touch with the needs and wishes of millions who may not understand what sort of world we live in, but are

quite certain, even if only by instinct, that it is not the world of Sir Christopher Soames. God bless the squire and his relations; full speed astern to the Two Nations.

What the Tory Party needs desperately is a chunk. To think about its nature and its future, its image and its search, but instead of being content that the election defeat was not a rout, and settling down to the long debate that must precede the choice of a new leader (since it is surely wise for a traveller, however intrepid, to decide what conditions he wishes to explore before hiring a guide, lest he appoint an Eskimo to take him across Equatorial Africa), the only thought that enters the mind is to get rid of Mr. Heath, who is still by far the most able man they have. He does, of course, seem to lose an awful lot of elections; but would it not be a good idea if the Tories were to choose an even more moderate successor at present would be better in that respect? I have never been able to understand why all these Tories and colonels in the Tory Party, who were so steady under real fire on the beaches, instantly lose their nerve and run for cover when they come under sham fire on the back benches. Can the Tories not understand that there is no hurry, and that a mistake now could not be put right until it had damaged the party almost, if not quite, beyond repair?

And there is another consideration perhaps the most important of all. Do the Tories believe their election arguments or do they not? If they do, then they believe that terrible times are coming for this country, and that the present Government will be quite unable to cope with them. Will not the people then turn to the man who told them as much, who would not lie either about the situation or the remedies, and who went down to defeat speaking the truth to the last? I think it quite likely that they will. Is this time to overthrow such a man and replace him by someone clearly his inferior? A year from now will be time enough for him to step down, if step down he must. But a year from now the hurricane will be blowing.

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The embarrassment of Boston

Massachusetts was the only state in the union to vote for Senator McGovern in 1972, and Boston has been the home of liberalism in racial matters since Daniel Webster. Yet trouble over cities have had trouble over busing recently, including Denver and New York, Boston is the only one where white mobs have stoned buses carrying black children to school.

Children are being bused peacefully to school in Alabama and Mississippi where the slogan was once "segregation now, segregation for ever"—while the home town of Harvard University, the heart of the liberal north-east, is giving the worst example of racial intolerance that has been seen in years.

The dominant political force in Boston is still Irish, and although the Irish are the most part are several generations removed from the mother country, they have preserved intact their heritage of intolerance and violence. A large Irish crowd was demonstrating the other day outside the house of the local cardinal, a descendant of Italian, not Irish, ancestry and name, who has refused to open the doors of the private Roman Catholic schools to the children of members of his flock who seek thus to escape the contamination of black children. The cardinal says they should

obey the law and show a little Christian charity, and is very unpopular in South Boston as a result.

The inhabitants of South Boston are known as "Southies", and they have preserved a community spirit which is becoming increasingly rare in America, save among blacks. The Southies are being guarded by a force of 445 state police, brought in from outside Boston to relieve the city force.

Part of the trouble was that the Boston police are themselves involved in the dispute over busing. Many of them are from South Boston, and although they will always defend the black children and their parents from assault by the white mob, it was obviously preferable to have outsiders doing the protection. Boston's tactical Irish force has been moved out of Southie and sent to the black ghetto, Roxbury, where blacks attack whites and the police will encounter no conflict of interest in protecting them.

The origins of the trouble are perfectly clear. The Americans, with their legal constitution and their legal tradition, are even more inclined to follow theoretical arguments through to extreme conclusions than the Irish. In 1955 the Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that racial segregation in

schools was unconstitutional. When the legal barriers had been removed, it was observed that many schools in north and south, remained all black or all white because they served districts which were similarly monochrome. The solution advocated by liberals and supported by the courts was to collect the children from each native district to study in schools which had formerly been the exclusive preserve of other races.

All over the United States, school boards have been evading the extreme consequences of this policy by busing a few black children to white schools. The law has thus been upheld without destroying the school system (and the children's education), but not in Boston. There the Irish-dominated schools committee, which runs the schools without regard to the mayor or the Governor of Massachusetts, refused all compromise.

Many arrangements were proposed which would have put enough blacks into white schools and vice versa to show the children (and this is the only reasonable justification of the law) that children of different colours are not different in other respects. The Irish would have none of it, any more than their cousins in Ireland will contemplate secular education.

In 1965 the legislature passed a law that no school

should have more than half its pupils from a minority, making it illegal that law was backed up by a court order this autumn, and the Irish started boycotting the schools and stoning the buses.

A black—innocent from Haid—was nearly lynched on Monday last week while trying to collect his child from South Boston High School. It made good television and enraged blacks in Roxbury, who started stoning and beating up whites who ventured into the ghetto. Sending the TPF to Roxbury and the state police to Southie will not solve anything, or President Ford washed his hands of the problem, leaving the Mayor of Boston wringing his hands. He is afraid that things will get worse.

The law may be evaded by an acceptable compromise. This is what has happened in New York. But it is feared that the blacks and the courts will insist that the law is enforced. ("We will march through Southie to get our rights", proclaimed a militant black leader last week) and the Irish will continue to fight beyond reason. That could lead to killings. There is a long hard winter ahead, and at the very least freezing cops will become fixtures outside every school in Boston.

Patrick Brogan

Kurds caught between trust and treachery

"When you are faced with the Russians, the only people who can help you are the Americans," Mr. Abdul Rahman, senior member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party leadership, was expressing hope rather than confirmation of wider world involvement in the Kurdish struggle to win autonomy within Iraq. But it indicates that larger issues are at stake than the fate of a small nation in a remote region of the world.

It is generally recognised that the Soviet Union is the main source of Iraqi weapons and expertise in their fight with the Kurds. Certainly Mr. Rahman is emphatic about this. "They have their experts in Kirkuk taking care of all the operations. And I can mention the name of the Chief Supervisor of Air Operations is Col Alexander Vasilev. It needs only the Red Army to occupy us to make it complete."

Recently the Kurds have claimed not only that the main instrument of Iraqi air power is the TU22, a supersonic bomber never before used outside Russia, and that all such missions are flown by Russians. This they say was admitted by Flight Lieutenant Safa Shalal at Faiz when he was captured in the West's battle against Russian infiltration into the Persian Gulf has some substance.

The Kurds' fate is to be constantly caught up in great events but inevitably exploited by them. Assyrians, Medes, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Persians, Arabs, Turks and British have marched and fought across Kurdistan. Today the Kurds are equally caught. The Kurds now find themselves fighting their erstwhile friends the Russians while relying on help from their old enemies, the Persians, to do so.

The Shah, who would never accept an independent Kurdistan, is now using the war to embarrass his Iraqi enemies. The Russians, on the other hand, are looking for an outlet to the Persian Gulf and a suitably remote testing ground for their TU22. A situation where the Kurds face overwhelming odds with the help only of unreliable allies leaves them open to cynical exploitation as ever. It is also invaluable propaganda for the Iraqis that the Kurds are helped by the country which would most like to see the collapse of the government in Baghdad.

Recently things have escalated dangerously for the Kurds. In major offensives the Iraqis have captured Ravanduz and Qandish. The policy of terrorising the civilian population is working. There are now nearly 80,000 refugees in camps in Iran. The Iraqis have bombed villages inside Iran, presumably to force the Shah to declare his hand. If he backs down the Kurds will be left in the lurch. If he fights, Kurdistan will become the battle ground for two large and sophisticated armies. Nor is it likely that the Iraqis will ignore the tempting target of 80,000 refugees within 20 miles of their border.

The large exodus of refugees is an important clue to the gravity of the situation. The experience of history and 14 years of almost continuous bouts with Baghdad have made the Kurds phlegmatic and tough. They do not abandon their homes lightly. But for months now the frontier has been jammed with hundreds of families fleeing anxiously for permission to cross.

At Kashli, I talked with some of the 5,000 people now in a panic-stricken flight from a big Iraqi push near Arbil. A woman told me: "For six days two of my children had to walk the other one had to carry me. Near Sewey the planes bombed us. There was no water and no food. My man was left behind looking after the mules." Her husband added: "I was at the front when it happened. I realized my

wife and children were lost. It took me three days of searching to find them. I saw three children dead from thirst and fatigue."

For three days this terrible tide of humanity had poured into Kashli—old men and women, many carrying their grand-children. Pregnant mothers, small babies, all walked for a week or more to reach there. Everywhere there was the same scene: attacks, crops and houses burnt, possessions abandoned. Incredibly, despite fear and exhaustion families struck obstinately at each other, clothes were washed in the children at least were fed. If there was food those who had food shared it with those that had not.

Exaggerated by problems of distance and poor communication, the sufferings of the wounded are equally severe. In a field hospital, improvised out of branches and leaves, Dr. Albert Gorgebes told me: "A per cent of our wounded are only after being carried for five days on a mule. I course most of them would be severely infected. We have no electricity, no oxygen, no general anaesthetics."

The most remarkable thing about the Kurdish revolution is not just that they are prepared to endure so much and for long, but that in most revolutions they are prepared to do so for a cause which the economic aspects of life are hardly mentioned. War is probably responsible for this unity of purpose and the are more like Ibrahim than one time rival to Barzani leadership, who believe another revolution will follow the gain of autonomy. Nevertheless the political process in which this is to be secured is one inappreciable of slightly whimsical and whimsical. The Prime Minister, Dr. Mahdi told me: "We believe in democracy, in our organisations the political life of our people... we believe in nationalisation, we believe in depoliticising the freedom of the press, we believe in the rule of law. It is why if one looks at our programme anybody will see we are nearer to the So Democratic Parties in Europe rather like the Labour Party Britain."

The question remains, w are the Kurds to do. The of autonomy passed by Bagh in March 1974 is neither nor democratic. It excels areas which experts agree Kurdish. The legislative b for Kurdistan is to be approved and dismissed by Baghdad. Baghdad's rulers of Iraq have captured the initiative, and their promise to hold a referendum on that basis the Kurds claim to a share of the revenue proportional to numbers. The Kurds claim with justification the autarkic regime in Baghdad is their own democratic of Qandish. The Kurds have tried to build the idea of democracy for all Iraq into negotiation as the only cure years of broken agreements.

In a world where justice prevailed there would no Kurdish question. It is haps because the Kurds bell so strongly in these ideals they continue to fight. There are those, both in Kurdistan and our who are worried if, in her present circumstances discretion would not be better part of valour. A superiority of weapons and unreliability of the allies are good propaganda for Baghdad. It is possible the Kurds may have to negotiate from a position of weakness, not strength. On grounds previously incurred an obligation the West has a duty to intervene with humanitarian aid and diplomatic pressure to get negotiations before disaster overtakes courageous people.

Chris Godda

The new tapestry is a brush work with bright hills in the foreground, a purple one in the background all in brilliant sunshine. It about as different from national Chinese art as can be imagined, and even has small cars parked by the to illustrate its contemporary character.

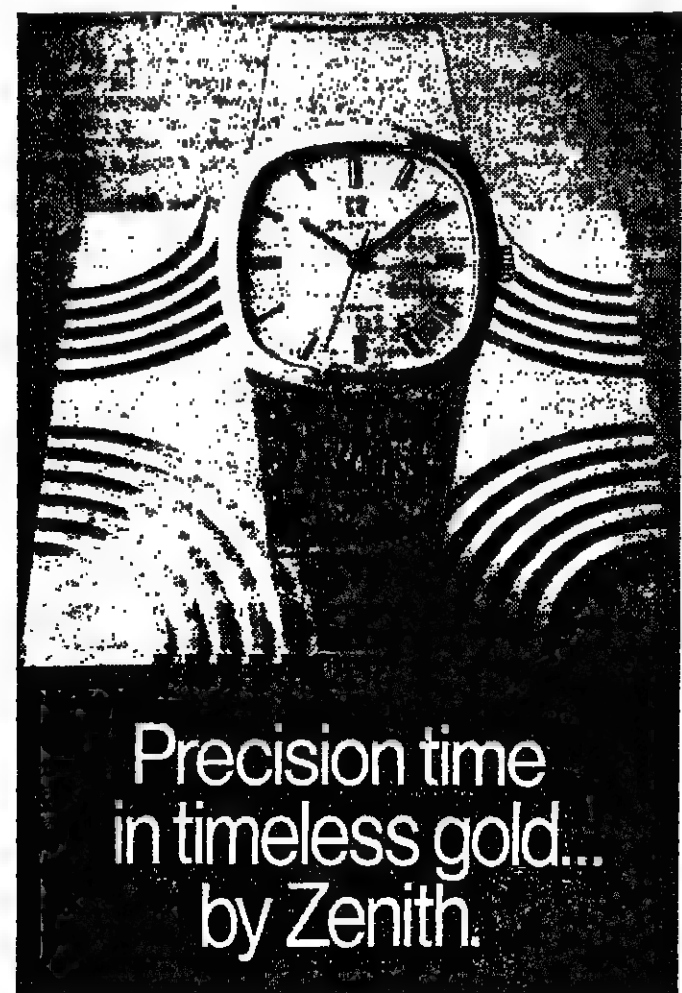
A touch of cruelty in RSCPA autumn fair at Chisown hall tomorrow: and will not be admitted.

Marksism

A few weeks ago we report the result of some interview conducted, suggesting a people did not react to the news much. It was after the Mozambique demonstrations and we asked if what the name Lourenco was meant to them. One respondent thought it was the Marx brothers.

This seminal piece of search has been reprinted in Rubeshom, a weekly book published in Moscow containing significant extracts from foreign newspapers. To readers of the magazine, Mr. Rubeshom explains: "Mr. Rubeshom is 'one of the don's largest department chains'."

Sir Michael Sporn, the chairman, produced the corporation's own programme popularity chart at a lunch in London yesterday. It was huge graph showing the line time soaring upwards off a paper ("that's Morcambe Wise") and another zooming the opposite direction ("you're down to the party for the downcast"). And, in a huge answer for people who asked him his family children.



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The Times Diary

Now let me talk to the philodendron

ground station and the Japanese cactus that could count. ("What's twice two?" its mistress would ask it, in Japanese, and it would pulsate four times in reply.)

It is easy to make fun of Tompkins and his theories, but I do not think anyone need restrain himself from doing so on that account. American humanists have been having a great time ever since the book came out. A cartoon in the latest New Yorker shows a woman saying over the telephone: "You'll be all right, dear. When I get home I'll move you into the sun. Now let me speak to the philodendron."

Philodendras seem specially sensitive. I let mine watch the election results on television last week and the next day it broke out in a rash of red flowers, though it reacted negatively to Alastair Burnet.

Tompkins warned me that a sequel to his book was in preparation as soon as this one is sold out. It seems to me that writing books is a little like talking to plants. It is diverting for a time but is ultimately valuable only if you have something true and interesting to say.

Mixed metaphor of the week comes from London Broadcasting in a discussion about the economic situation. British industry, said their analyst, "seems a rather sensitive plant, always rolling over on its back and kicking its legs in the air."

UP STEPS TO SUNKEN GARDEN

Today's contradictory sign was photographed at Butchart Gardens, British Columbia, by Dr. Iain Adamson of Dundee University.

Orderly

In the bar of the Aylesford Priory, in Kent yesterday, the Friars, members of the Carmelite Order, joined reporters for sherry and shy small talk to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the return of the Aylesford was first occupied by them in 1242. Yesterday was the first time the friars had entertained the press, and for some of them the ordeal may have been as taxing as that endured by their predecessors when, in 1538, officers of Henry VIII suppressed and dispersed them.

But Father Prior, the Very Rev. Hugh Clarke, handled things without panic. No cigarettes were trodden out on the carpet. He said that his order had hired a public relations company because the Priory wanted people from all over England to go there on retreat

and pilgrimage. There is accommodation for 50.

When Fr Clarke asked for questions, an expert on religious affairs asked first for a sherry and then for an explanation of the difference between the Carmelites and other orders. Said Fr Clarke: "It's very difficult to put it into words, but it is rather like telling the difference between brands of whisky. It would take a connoisseur to tell the difference in both cases."

Legs

Players of the Bristol City Football Club reported in Bath yesterday for training with the Northern Dance Theatre ballet company. The event attracted numerous photographers, four British television companies and two television teams from Holland, one of which brought the Dutch World Cup goalkeeper Joa Jongbloed to join in the performance.

The dancers took the field in leotards and woollen practice hose. The footballers, disappointingly, came on in regulation strip. The dance theatre's director, Doreen Meyer, led them through limbering-up exercises at the bar, the footballers teetered nervously and could not get their feet into the first position. Ernie Hunt, City's striker, shown an extending knees-bend, complained that he risked embarrassment as well as injury.

Hunt, who partnered the Northern Dance Theatre's new recruit from the Stuttgart Ballet, Elizabeth Parker, was the star turn, although he showed a tendency to turn the wrong way and to keel over. Miss Parker said that Hunt's strong point was lifting. His muscles were over-developed for classical dance, and his hamstrings were short. Hunt, beginning to sweat, agreed.

Bristol's chief coach, Ken

Winshire, thought the ballet exercises were similar to the footballers used, but did not apply enough pressure. "You work all the time on the legs," he said. "This is what carries the legs," clutching at his mid-thighs. "It all comes from here." He had his teeth in the floor and do violent jerks to show what he meant, and the male baller dancers, striving to keep up, looked suitably exhausted.

Meyer said he had given the footballers relatively easy exercises in consideration of their replay with Liverpool today. The footballers did not think they had learnt anything new, although they agreed that balance and timing could be useful. The photographer snapped footballers performing jettés, and holding agonized girl dancers in swallow-dive positions, and the management made a similar point of the footballers' team to see their company perform. "At its crudest, it's a publicity stunt," said the Arts Council man who dreamed it up. The objective is to broaden the audience, and I think we should succeed."

Purple hills

Delegates at the United Nations in New York have a new distraction from their attempts to put the world right. It is a huge and gaudy tapestry of the Great Wall of China which has been presented by the Chinese delegation and hangs in the delegates' lounge. It quite dominates the room, serving as a reminder that China, so long excluded from the U.N., is now there in a big way.

In return for the tapestry, an elaborate ivory carving of a railway bridge, the Chinese insisted on the removal of a tablet with a quotation from Confucius that has been at the U.N. since 1963.



AMERICAN LEVERAGE ON TURKEY

he battle between President Ford and Congress over American aid to Turkey is to some extent a new version of the battle over the Jackson Amendment. The dispute is not, in this case, over the legitimacy of using American economic aid as a lever with which to influence the policies of foreign governments. Both sides implicitly accept that America is entitled to expect political benefits from the aid she gives. The dispute is a tactical one. The administration, which has to deal directly with foreign governments, is more conscious of the negotiations of leverage and tends to feel that it is most effective used tactically, or at least in private. Senators and Congressmen, whose main concern is with the American public, tend to expect more concrete and above board results. If results are not achieved, they put the public to see that they are trying.

The two attitudes are to some extent complementary. It is probably much easier for the United States government to put pressure on foreign countries when it is visibly resisting pressure in the same sense at home. Sometimes, indeed, the existence of a congressional lobby so obviously engaged in the negotiating of aid for the United States government (for instance, in negotiations on removing barriers to trade) that foreign governments (especially those whose political systems are very different from those of the

United States) come to suspect it is all a put-up job. The Turks have not so far made that mistake. Last Friday their foreign ministry put out a statement praising President Ford's attitude, and expressing the hope that "in the not too distant future the United States Congress will find the opportunity to look at these matters from an equally responsible angle". The same statement made another point which is certainly not lost on the United States administration. It suggested that the aid given to Turkey by the United States is "not a favour", but a form of bilateral cooperation to which Turkey is making "at least the same contribution" for joint security within the framework of the alliance. This being so, the suspension of the aid is a question concerning Turkey alone.

There is the rub. The United States does not give aid to Turkey out of disinterested philanthropy, nor even with a view to keeping Turkish troops out of Cyprus. It has been giving aid to Turkey for over twenty years—since long before Turkish intervention in Cyprus became a serious possibility—in order to strengthen Turkey as a member of Nato occupying an absolutely crucial strategic position. As long as the West regards the Soviet Union as a threat, and as long as it regards the Middle East and the Mediterranean as areas of strategic importance, it is virtually obliged to keep Turkey as an ally and to make it as strong an ally as possible.

To this Senator Eagleton can reply that, if the purpose of United States aid is not to keep Turkey out of Cyprus, nor is it to help Turkey invade Cyprus; and that American weapons are hardly strengthening Turkey against the Soviet Union if the Turks are using them to entangle their forces elsewhere. These are valid points and ones which, one hopes, the American government is making as forcefully as possible in its private discussions with the Turkish government. But they cannot change the fact, of which the American government is well aware, that the Turkish-American relationship is a two-way one which neither side is anxious to sacrifice. The Turks on their side must be aware that their armed forces are heavily dependent on American ammunition, which if they were to be further large-scale fighting in Cyprus, or in Thrace and the Aegean, it might be politically difficult for the United States to keep on supplying. They are perhaps not sufficiently aware that the present situation in Cyprus, if left to fester for too long, could well degenerate to a point where further large-scale fighting would be likely. It is as important for Turkey as for Greece that the Denshass-Clerides talks should lead to a political settlement involving the withdrawal from Cyprus of Turkish and Greek forces. Mr. Karamanlis has seen this and has wisely given Mr. Clerides a free hand. It is to be hoped that Ankara will allow Mr. Denshass the same flexibility.

Conservatives after the election

From Mr J. R. V. Courts
Sir, I found the effect of reading the leading article in today's *Times* (October 15) merely to strengthen my own conviction that at the moment there is no one better to lead the Conservatives than Mr Heath. There are two major drawbacks to dismissing Mr Heath at the present moment. Firstly, as you say, by implication point out, the other candidates are probably of inferior ability in terms of parliamentary skill and in the respect that they would have to gain from both the Shadow Cabinet and at a future date a ministerial Cabinet. Secondly, it must be extremely damaging to our country and to the Conservative Party that a television image should be thought to be more important than the actual ingredients of leadership. Mr Heath's qualities of honesty, strength of purpose, clarity of thought and the ability to be forceful in his judgment must surely be a rare combination of qualities to be found on either side of the House. It would be sad indeed that we have reached such a point of needless neurosis that we are prepared to jettison such a man, prompted by a character assassination campaign in the press. Certainly anyone taking over from Mr Heath would need to have almost supernatural qualities if they were to survive the same fate. Yours faithfully, J. R. V. COURTS, The Court Lodge, Chesham, Bucks. October 15.

'Brilliant campaign'

From Mr R. P. B. Barber
Sir, Ted Heath has fought a brilliant campaign for the best possible result for the Conservative Party. The middle class vote has rallied behind him, particularly in the marginals, to prevent a Labour landslide and Mr Wilson is left holding the baby with a three-seat majority. To one party can unite the country; least of all the Labour Party, on the basis of their manifesto. Surely, we shall now see a national government formed within twelve months (possibly under Mr Callaghan?), and a complete vindication of Mr Heath and his campaign strategy. To lose his leadership now would be fatal to the Conservative Party, and would destroy the position of strength that has been prepared so carefully for the not-too-distant future. Yours faithfully, RICHARD BARBER, 11, The Court Lodge, Chesham, Bucks. October 12.

Size of Labour majority

From Lord Beswick
Sir, Are you quite certain that the language you use in today's leader (October 12) will encourage that cohesive influence which, you often imply, the nation needs? You assert that "it would have been very bad to have had a large Labour majority". Possibly, but if the Conservatives had not done things as they did, absolutely nothing else, for hours, but to get one public figure to criticize another. What conceivable purpose is served by his offensive provocation at this time? The beams in the eyes of politicians may well need testing for integrity but even then both press and TV consider a little more carefully their own motives? Yours faithfully, BESWICK, House of Lords, October 12.

Lesson for the Liberals

From Mr Richard Rountree
Sir, It would be surprising if any party activist were to agree with all of your leader (October 12) on the results of the election. As a Conservative, I would concur with your tribute to Mr Heath, whose true stature may well become more apparent to both members of his own party and to the public generally as our national problems become more intense. I would also agree with your attribution of good intentions (albeit negatively) to the Government, but would question your fears of their inadequacy anyway in comparison to any other party based administration. Where I am in common with many, would share your pessimism in the doubt as to whether any party government can hope to withstand the strains that lie ahead. Yet I find your suggestion that Liberals may be regretting the rejection of Mr Heath's February offer of coalition quite incredible. Can you really take the political views of Mr Bernard Levin so seriously in spite of the almost inordinate

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Contingency plans for Ulster

From Mr Stratton Mills
Sir, What are the implications of the General Election results in Northern Ireland, taken in conjunction with the events of the past year? The July White Paper commits HMG to holding elections for a convention of representatives of the people of Northern Ireland to "produce recommendations which command majority and widespread support from its members". In my view, it is now absolutely clear that such a Convention will not be able to produce proposals based on "widespread support". The election has shown polarization of the communities on a massive scale, giving the Unionists 55.1 per cent and the SDLP, Republican and Mr Maguire 29 per cent—a sectarian head count! Unhappily the pro-Union middle ground has been largely swept away, and it is sad to see how little electoral cooperation there was between the Faulkner Unionists (2.9 per cent of the total vote, standing in 2 seats), Northern Ireland Labour Party (1.6 per cent in 3 seats) and Alliance (6.4 per cent in 5 seats). As a member of the Alliance party it seems to me that small as its vote was it is based on real foundations and will survive, while the other two elements will disappear. Looking ahead, in the Convention elections the Unionists will have a clear and comfortable overall majority, their mood will not be one of compromise but rather of imposing their own solution, while the SDLP's election manifesto, and their support of Mr Maguire in Fermanagh and South Tyrone seems to demonstrate a much harder line. Yet I still believe there can be no hope of any stability in Northern Ireland unless there is an acceptable compromise based on real power-sharing at Executive level, together with a British dimension and some form of an Irish dimension. Now is surely the time to question the basis of HMG's approach in using such a vehicle as a constitutional Convention as a method of producing a compromise solution. It is bound to fail, and when it collapses it seems to me that the Unionists and HMG will be tragically aware of an inevitable collision course with the most frightening consequences looming ahead. What then is the alternative? As one who supported the proposals for a power-sharing Executive when I was at Westminster, I fear that one has got to accept at the present time, after five years' continuous violence and with massive polarization, that one has no chance of finding a political solution "based

Secrecy of the ballot

From Dr I. Hughes Halliwell
Sir, Now that the dust of another general election has settled, I feel the time is opportune to highlight the fact that the ballot is not a secret one. After arriving at the polling station and identifying oneself to the presiding officer, one's number in the electoral register is endorsed on the envelope of the ballot paper (which is also numbered) prior to voting. The ballot papers and counterfoils are subsequently lodged with the Lord Chancellor's Department to which access is available only with a court order. It is therefore possible to discover how an individual voted. While it seems very unlikely this would happen in the United Kingdom at the present time, one could nevertheless envisage a markedly different political situation where it might. Little comfort is derived from the official explanation that "this is done solely to detect and prove abuses so that offenders may be punished", which implies that under special circumstances ballot paper and counterfoil could be matched up after an election. Perhaps our electoral reformers may care to apply their minds to this problem. Yours faithfully, I. HUGHES HALLETT, 503 Clive Court, W5, October 14.

From Mr Juergen Hille
Sir, The Club of Ten, through a half-page advertisement in your issue of October 14, asks why the World Council of Churches does not do more to tackle the problem of starvation in the world. We are, of course, aware of the inadequacy of the 2.5 million dollars used by the World Council of Churches in the Sahel to assist famine victims to build a more secure future, or the 14 million dollars spent in Bangladesh to aid a country struggling for its life, or the 250,000 dollars given to care for drought victims in Ethiopia or the 2.5 million dollars used to create the possibility of new life in the Sudan. That is why a special WCC study was commissioned into the fact behind the world food crisis and why our representatives will be at the world food conference next month. They will underline the Churches' concern for the millions who are suffering and dying at this moment and press for increased food production alongside a redistribution of the world's food resources to feed the needy instead of overfeeding the already fat. We look forward to the day when the Club of Ten decides to use its financial resources in the struggle against hunger and for justice rather than in misleading newspaper advertisements. Yours faithfully, JUERGEN HILLE, Director, Department of Communication, World Council of Churches, Geneva.

Electoral reform

From Sir Leonard Behrens
Sir, In your today's issue (October 11) Lord Kahn wishes us to believe that the method of election by the single transferable vote "to most members of the electorate is quite unintelligible" and yet the electorate in the Republic of Ireland seems to understand it, and to refuse to return to the unrepresentative system in use on this side of the Irish Sea, and prefers a system which gives voters a larger choice of candidates and avoids the "split vote". Yours, etc. LEONARD F. BEHRENS, 119 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, Manchester, October 11.

Identical vote

From Mr David Weekes
Sir, Perhaps the most remarkable single result in the election occurred at Lifford North, where the Conservative candidate Mr T. Iremonger polled 19,843 votes—precisely the same number cast for him in February election. I imagine the odds against that happening must be astronomical. However, Mr Iremonger lost the seat he had previously held. Yours faithfully, DAVID WEEKES, 40 Broadwalk, Snaresbrook, E18, October 11.

Minerfield ahead

From Mr Raymond Hitchcock
Sir, If we are to interpret correctly the analogy in your today's leader (October 12), then it would seem to be the Liberals who are now watching both Labour and Tory entering the minerfield. For when about to negotiate a particularly dangerous area, the Libyan Arab found it prudent to drive not only his donkey in front of him but also his wife. It was always very much a three-part affair. Yours faithfully, RAYMOND HITCHCOCK, Abbot's Worby Mill, Winchester, Hampshire, October 12.

From Mr Ernest Hall
Sir, I do not in the least mind being added (together, I imagine with most—if not all of the staff of *The Times*) to Mr Douglas-Horne's list of charities. In the past, far more than we would have been led to believe, we have been a wealthy patron. Mr Douglas-Horne deserves full marks for his arithmetic but could he not, perhaps, be confusing "price" with "value"? His undoubted skills are extremely rare and therefore command a high price in the open market. My own are in far greater supply but are still sufficiently uncommon for me to be able to demand for them a considerably higher price than can be obtained for the skills of those who perform dull, monotonous but absolutely essential tasks in factories, offices and shops or in

POPULAR DISCONTENTS IN KENYA

The Kenya elections four years and six assistant ministers have lost their assembly, but the ruling party, the Kenya African National Union, scooped all the seats. Kenya, Tanganyika, is one of the African states which combine a party system with a considerable free-for-all at the hustings. Some constituencies 10 loyal to party men stood against it. Other. The Government MPs but the electorate gets their choice. It may seem a curious way of venting, or moderating, party tribal factionalism; but it is. At election time, popular discontent comes to the surface, notably the discontent of the Kikuyu tribes against the of the Kikuyu on office, industrialism and business. The dispute is thus confined to issues and personalities, which there is lively grass-roots controversy and people are informed. The poll has been attended and the campaign meetings attended and even require some police action. But the final policy is decided by the

President, Mzee Kenyatta and his cabinet, not by parties or electorates. The Government's long-standing and well-known critic, Mr Oginga Odinga, was not allowed to stand for a seat (though other parties are not specifically illegal). This system, if far from what was demanded by nationalists in colonial days, keeps the President informed about public feeling and provides a safety-valve. But it leaves ministers in office, for the most part, and they cultivate the sweets of office assiduously. It must have surprised the President to have his foreign minister, Dr Njoroge Mungai, thrown out, though the accusations that he was too often abroad and too little in the constituency may have been rather unkind. Candidates known to be favoured by the establishment were in fact widely trounced. There is a feeling that ministers, and the Kenyan establishment generally, never had it so good, and recent reports about the way the ruby mines affair has been handled certainly point to widespread corruption. Corruption is just as rife else-

where in Africa—but it is one virtue of Kenya that at election times such things can be said (if not printed). If corruption could generate a revolt, one could say that Kenya is verging on the condition of Nigeria before the Army coup of 1966. But the other circumstances are quite different. The Kenyan army is small and faces a problem on its Somali front, while the President enjoys a reverence and following unusual even in Africa. Nevertheless he must have been shaken by the fate of his old ally, the Emperor of Ethiopia. For the moment Kenya is prosperous, despite the impact of the oil crisis. But a world recession could hit its tourism, and the population growth is producing not only serious unemployment but grave land problems. The seizure of foreign Asian businesses will not long appease discontent. The country needs to maintain an inflow of capital which has kept its economy expansive hitherto, but the outlook is obviously becoming very uncertain.

LIGHT IN THE WEST END

visitors from abroad think it is a sorry state, it may be something to do with the fact that the first place most of a go is London's West End: the years pockets of the famous area of this great have been allowed to decay. fact that similar metamorphoses have occurred elsewhere, the Times Square, Broadway, let of New York, for example, takes it no less distressing. The biggest disaster is, of course, Piccadilly Circus, around a confusion and argument revolved for 16 years since its first submitted. The latest recovery concerns Trustee's Fort's plans for the site on the south side of the circle which were recently approved by Westminster planning committee and are to go before the full council. The scheme would retain the of the present facade, ther with the entrance and tower of the Criterion re itself. Its opponents ide the minority Labour p on the council, a large on of the theatrical world, inevitably, the Save Piccadilly Campaign. Piccadilly Circus is the worst by no means the only iple. Parts of Shaftesbury ue and Charing Cross Road n the sort of condition that, irmingham or Manchester, d qualify them for wholesale clearance. The Nash perverts" building in the id is empty and boarded up corrugated iron because owners, Courts Bank, have

been unable to reach agreement with Westminster council on plans for its partial reconstruction. The National Gallery is currently giving space to a contentious exhibition of redevelopment plans for the south east corner of Trafalgar Square on either side of Northumberland Avenue. The owners, Land Securities and the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution, want to replace the present Victorian buildings with new offices. Although the proposed replacements are not, on the evidence of the drawings, immediately objectionable, it has been argued that they are unnecessary and will merely substitute expensive offices for relatively cheap ones. Objectors see a danger that, once the present buildings are demolished, the site will become a "hole in the ground" for possibly several years, when there are already more than enough empty sites all over central London. On the other hand, if the plans are delayed another Piccadilly Circus situation may develop; the buildings, already grimy and badly in need of paint, may simply be allowed to decay from lack of attention. The fact is that parts of the West End are suffering from an acute case of planning blight. For this the planners themselves must take a large part of the responsibility. But there are other culprits. Conservationists show a negative tendency to oppose any sort of redevelopment, when it is obvious that no city can live forever on its past. As for the

developers themselves: the principal reason why some of the shabby West End buildings are in their present state is that their owners hope, by running them down, to press local authorities into permitting profitable redevelopment. At present buildings listed as being of special architectural or historic interest are protected from precipitate demolition by the legal requirement for the owner to seek consent from the Secretary of State for the Environment. Mr George Dobry, QC, as part of his report on development control, has already recommended that restrictions on demolition should be extended to all buildings whether listed or not. With listed buildings, it has been found necessary in addition to protect them against destruction through deliberate neglect by giving the local authority power to require essential repairs, and even to do the work itself and send the bill to the owner. Where the site is of no special value, as with a country house, the trouble with such safeguards is that they may go unused unless the authority is prepared in the last resort to face a purchase notice and take over the dilapidated edifice itself. In London at present the case is more often one of a white elephant sitting on a gold-mine, and an owner would rather do anything than risk the loss of the site's development prospects. Some of their proposals may be of benefit to the life and appearance of London. But it is important that proposals should still be scrutinized with care and full public consultation.

gious broadcasting
The Revd Michael Seward
According to Canon Frank W's view (September 30) it seems that both *Snow White* and *Camberwick Green* should be as "religious" material suitably suited for transmission on the religious broadcast slots. Sir Lew Grade will be told at the news. However, while I respect the views of Canon Wright, I cannot help but believe that these of his colleagues in the field of religious broadcasting share the same conviction as I do in the idea of religious broadcasting talking balderdash in the far wiser guide is the Arch-

bishop of Canterbury who set out what ought to be regarded as the definitive word on the subject at a religious broadcasting consultation sponsored by the then IFA in 1968. He urged religious producers to depict human problems just as they are, human situations just as they are, human emotions in human situations and then see what the Christian faith can do with those situations in a practical way, not only by giving an ethical answer, but also by bringing something supernatural on to the human scene that alters the whole human perspective and enables the whole human problem to be tackled. Here at least is recognition that there has to be something supernatural brought on to the scene (however subtly) to turn a story or a programme from simply being a

moral tale (however worthy and instructive) into one which can properly be described as "religious". Sadly, after five years of working as the Church of England's Radio and Television Officer, I came to the conclusion that a substantial number of those involved in the making of religious broadcasting were quite unwilling to listen to the Archbishop's brilliantly pithy statement and to act on it. It is hardly therefore surprising that so many clergy and laity continue to express great dissatisfaction with certain areas of so-called religious broadcasting which are based on nothing more substantial than the Wright (or should it be the wrong) view. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL SAWARD, St Matthews Vicarage, 2 Clancarty Road, SW6.

The tax man cometh

From Mr Ernest Hall
Sir, I do not in the least mind being added (together, I imagine with most—if not all of the staff of *The Times*) to Mr Douglas-Horne's list of charities. In the past, far more than we would have been led to believe, we have been a wealthy patron. Mr Douglas-Horne deserves full marks for his arithmetic but could he not, perhaps, be confusing "price" with "value"? His undoubted skills are extremely rare and therefore command a high price in the open market. My own are in far greater supply but are still sufficiently uncommon for me to be able to demand for them a considerably higher price than can be obtained for the skills of those who perform dull, monotonous but absolutely essential tasks in factories, offices and shops or in

sweeping streets and emptying dustbins. The people of this country, through their elected representatives, have decided over many years of governments of different political persuasions that the price that Mr Douglas-Horne and I receive for our services does not represent their true value to the community. The tax collector is their agent charged with the task of redressing the balance. Like Mr Douglas-Horne, I do not enjoy reading communications from HM Inspector of Taxes. I try however to regard him as an essentially kind-hearted and strictly non-violent Robin Hood rather than as a selfish and malevolent Dick Turpin. Yours faithfully, ERNEST HALL, 68 Dudley Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, October 13.

Contingency plans for Ulster

From Mr Stratton Mills
Sir, What are the implications of the General Election results in Northern Ireland, taken in conjunction with the events of the past year? The July White Paper commits HMG to holding elections for a convention of representatives of the people of Northern Ireland to "produce recommendations which command majority and widespread support from its members". In my view, it is now absolutely clear that such a Convention will not be able to produce proposals based on "widespread support". The election has shown polarization of the communities on a massive scale, giving the Unionists 55.1 per cent and the SDLP, Republican and Mr Maguire 29 per cent—a sectarian head count! Unhappily the pro-Union middle ground has been largely swept away, and it is sad to see how little electoral cooperation there was between the Faulkner Unionists (2.9 per cent of the total vote, standing in 2 seats), Northern Ireland Labour Party (1.6 per cent in 3 seats) and Alliance (6.4 per cent in 5 seats). As a member of the Alliance party it seems to me that small as its vote was it is based on real foundations and will survive, while the other two elements will disappear. Looking ahead, in the Convention elections the Unionists will have a clear and comfortable overall majority, their mood will not be one of compromise but rather of imposing their own solution, while the SDLP's election manifesto, and their support of Mr Maguire in Fermanagh and South Tyrone seems to demonstrate a much harder line. Yet I still believe there can be no hope of any stability in Northern Ireland unless there is an acceptable compromise based on real power-sharing at Executive level, together with a British dimension and some form of an Irish dimension. Now is surely the time to question the basis of HMG's approach in using such a vehicle as a constitutional Convention as a method of producing a compromise solution. It is bound to fail, and when it collapses it seems to me that the Unionists and HMG will be tragically aware of an inevitable collision course with the most frightening consequences looming ahead. What then is the alternative? As one who supported the proposals for a power-sharing Executive when I was at Westminster, I fear that one has got to accept at the present time, after five years' continuous violence and with massive polarization, that one has no chance of finding a political solution "based

Relief work in Africa

From Mr Juergen Hille
Sir, The Club of Ten, through a half-page advertisement in your issue of October 14, asks why the World Council of Churches does not do more to tackle the problem of starvation in the world. We are, of course, aware of the inadequacy of the 2.5 million dollars used by the World Council of Churches in the Sahel to assist famine victims to build a more secure future, or the 14 million dollars spent in Bangladesh to aid a country struggling for its life, or the 250,000 dollars given to care for drought victims in Ethiopia or the 2.5 million dollars used to create the possibility of new life in the Sudan. That is why a special WCC study was commissioned into the fact behind the world food crisis and why our representatives will be at the world food conference next month. They will underline the Churches' concern for the millions who are suffering and dying at this moment and press for increased food production alongside a redistribution of the world's food resources to feed the needy instead of overfeeding the already fat. We look forward to the day when the Club of Ten decides to use its financial resources in the struggle against hunger and for justice rather than in misleading newspaper advertisements. Yours faithfully, JUERGEN HILLE, Director, Department of Communication, World Council of Churches, Geneva.

A patient's last days

From Dr Richard Lamerton
Sir, Lord Platt said that if he becomes "senile, demented, incontinent, and a nuisance and expense, he hopes to meet Sister McTavish. It does not follow that a person so afflicted is a nuisance, and of course expense is irrelevant. With good care, senile people can be dignified, contented and a pleasure to serve. Where care is not good, two possible courses are open to the nation: channel resources to the areas of need, and improve our care, or kill the people who are an inconvenience. Change is certainly needed, but in which direction do we want to move? I fear that the involuntary euthanasia which Lord Platt commends would create more social problems than it solved. With respect, RICHARD LAMERTON, Chairman, Human Rights Society, 27 Walpole Street, SW3.

Sentencing policy

From Mr Clive Davies
Sir, Dr Keith Hawkins (October 3) gives three reasons why penal sentences should be determined and imposed by the judiciary rather than indeterminate and controlled by the executive. May I add two more? First, most serving prisoners hate them: it is much easier to adjust to a fixed period of time, even a relatively long one, than to be kept in a state of suspense. Nearly everyone who has "done time" at approved schools and borstals, or for that matter, as a prisoner on remand, emphasizes the psychological strain imposed by the uncertainty. And while admittedly penal sentences are not meant to be enjoyed by those undergoing

on widespread support". Yet at some time in the future it is possible the atmosphere might be much more fertile. Let's recognize the realities—direct rule must continue for a period of several years, and at the appropriate time another initiative must be taken to find a political solution. I believe that the ordinary people, as distinct from the power-hungry politicians, would be prepared to accept continuing direct rule for a limited period, if means can be found to make it much closer to the day to day life of Northern Ireland and to provide efficient government. How can this be done? It is essential that much more effective means be found at Westminster for dealing with Northern Ireland legislation and Parliamentary Questions—this is perfectly possible. Furthermore, the day to day Government should be carried out by a Commission presided over by the Secretary of State—there are three possible types of Commission: (1) An appointed Advisory Commission of Northern Ireland people—this was tried in 1972 and in my view it was not particularly effective, in that it suffered from being both advisory and appointed. (2) An elected Commission—this would be a 15-18 members elected on a PR basis, taking Northern Ireland as a single constituency, so that it would at least be truly representative. Could the politicians be persuaded to work together? To what extent would it be advisory, or would it be possible to give it certain executive responsibilities? Could it have powers to deal with certain devolved legislation? (3) A Commission of non-political people—an appointed commission involving as much talent as possible. Probably it would be mostly civil servants, but perhaps with some business, university and trade union elements. Would it be best to have such people from outside Northern Ireland, or a mixture? Such commissioners would make no pretence of being representative, but might be given a widespread executive role with a mix of the powers assumed by the Ministerial and Civil Service heads of a Department—say a Commission for Finance, Agriculture, Commerce, etc. It seems to me that a Commission of types (2) or (3) above is the kind of contingency plan that should now be examined. Yours faithfully, STRATTON MILLS, 20 Callender Street, Belfast, October 13.

advertisement from the "Club of Ten" in your issue today (October 14). "Knocking" advertisements are not usually accepted. The language of this one is tendentious and misleading. To try to make political capital out of desperate human need is objectionable and reprehensible. Ever since the serious situation in the drought-affected areas of Sahel and Ethiopia developed, the World Council of Churches through its Inter-Church Aid unit and the Commission for Participation in Development has been channelling substantial help to these regions in both money and personnel. It will continue to do this, as well as trying to meet urgent needs in other parts of the world. To pit the massive relief and development work of the WCC against the Special Fund to Combat Racism is unworthy and can do no good to the friends of South Africa. The Special Fund, as should now be well known, consists of voluntary contributions from Churches and individuals earmarked for the specific purpose of small grants to organizations working against racial discrimination. It is not and may not be used for "bombs" or "bombs". The headquarters of the WCC in Geneva or those of Christian Aid in this country will gladly receive and transmit gifts for the needy areas of Central Africa. Yours, ERNEST A. PAYNE, President of the World Council of Churches, 27 Walpole Street, Elm Cottage, Manor Road, Pitsford, Northants, October 14.

them, there is no evidence that indeterminate sentences produce higher "success rates" (if anything the reverse is true), so that the imposition of suffering is gratuitous. Secondly, and justly, the great merit of doing their work in open court, where the defendant's family and friends have a right to be present at the proceedings, and the press to report and criticize. This I suspect is in practice an even more important safeguard against excessive severity or leniency, bias, stupidity, inefficiency and laziness than the "procedural safeguards" (such as the right to appeal, the right to be represented and so on) of which Dr Hawkins speaks. Executive discretion is exercised behind closed doors. Yours sincerely, CLIVE DAVIES, The University, Liverpool.

Red Thing at the opera

From Lady Antonia Fraser
Sir, How lucky Mr Bernard Levin was, on the opening night of Covent Garden's new *Phaedra*, in hearing the famous E. Flax stealing at him out of the darkness. All I heard—and I was only three rows behind him—was the loud whirr of a cinema projector. This was noisily engaged in creating a flickering Red Thing, part of the novel scenery for the opening. As Wagner's instructions contain no demand for flickering Red Thing, could not this undecorated home movie touch be dispensed with in future productions? Or at least let the projector go more silently about its work, even in an expensive new production, is still rather less important than that of the orchestra. Yours faithfully, ANTONIA FRASER, 52 Campden Hill Square, W8.



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



Ford chief says many car workers will be jobless if some sales drop below 1.2m

Clifford Webb, managing director of Ford Britain, gave a warning yesterday that unless sales were maintained at the 1.2m level there would be considerable unemployment in the car industry. Even 1974 sales are 25 per cent down the previous year.

Speaking at a preview of the motor show which opened in Earls Court today, he set the border-line at 1.2 million new car registrations in 1975. The industry's target for 1974 is 1.28 million.

Mr Beckett thought 1975 sales would exceed 1.2 million. He based this optimistic view on a slowdown in new car purchases, which he believed would be half the 30 per cent increase which has taken place since last November.

He said Ford's present wages were due to be reduced to the level of 13,000. This compared with normal stocks of 100 at this time of year, and next two months in preparation for the spring selling season. The shortage was partly due to damage to Ford's 10m worth of orders it did not meet.

Despite the dispute, Ford was recruiting and needed an

additional 3,000 workers at Dagenham and Halewood.

Lord Stokes, chairman of British Leyland, told a press conference: "I have always welcomed close industrial consultation between industry and government, and we have no objection whatever to telling the Government of the day about our long-term objectives and our plans for fulfilling them. Indeed, I think we were among the pioneers in making such information available to the appropriate government departments."

Despite all the problems BLMC had managed to operate profitably in the second half of the financial year, but the situation of practically all international motor manufacturers was not encouraging.

Lord Stokes said in January that the company had expected the economic downturn in Europe better than many of their competitors, and had started a trim accordingly. In the past nine months it had reduced worldwide manpower by 10,000 by not replacing leavers.

Although the company was budgeting for a reduced United Kingdom car market (its forecast is 1.1 million), it would achieve a larger share with new models. It was also committed to its biggest export programme.

Lord Stokes said this was being backed by a 25 per cent production increase for Leyland trucks, expansion of Jaguar, the building of one of the most advanced car plants in Europe at Solihull and a plant at Longbridge to produce a new range of economical engines.

The Motor Agents' Association is advocating restrictions on used car sales to help close the huge gap between used and new car prices. The part-exchange value of a year-old car is now only 50 per cent of the new price.

Mr Frank Higham, director general of the MAA, said: "We believe that the new Government could leave the hire purchase deposit at one third, but could increase the repayment period from two to three years on used cars only."

"This would help to boost used car prices and prevent new car sales from becoming further depressed by motorists who cannot bridge the financial gap between used and new prices."

Mr Beckett said that while he accepted the need for used car prices to be improved, he did not think it was practical to have one level of hire purchase for new cars and another for used. "How will you define a used car—one day old or one year old?" he asked.

Stocks given boost by Wilson call for unity

By Our Financial Staff

Share prices on the London stock market rose strongly yesterday following the Prime Minister's call for unity in the fight against inflation. City satisfaction both with Mr Wilson's warning words to the trade unions and his assurance that the Government is giving "urgent attention" to industry's cash problems outweighed the effects of the suspension of shares in Jessel Securities and Jessel Holdings.

Gilt-edged improved on hopes of lower interest rates in the United States. The announcement of the date for the autumn Budget rounded off a successful market day, and although some gains were reduced by the fact that the final picture was very flat, the FT index climbed convincingly through the 200 mark to close 8.5 up at 205.7, and The Times index rose 3.05 to 79.18.

Turnover remained sluggish, although the total of recorded bargain increases in the market came from inside the market rather than from the institutions, and share gains were fuelled by the tight stock positions constructed during the election period.

Belgian bank says losses will not top £16m mark

From David Cross

The losses incurred by the Banque de Bruxelles on illegal foreign exchange transactions would amount to between 600m and 1,500m Belgian francs (£6.5m and £16m), a spokesman for the bank said today.

This estimated potential loss would represent between 6 and 12 per cent of the real net worth of the bank during the financial year 1973-74, he added.

When the last balance sheet was drawn up on March 31, capital and reserves amounted to 7,100m Belgian francs, he stated. To this sum should be added internal reserves, which brought the real net worth of the bank to more than 11,000m francs.

The spokesman's comments followed indications from court officials that the "irregular, unrecorded and unauthorized" foreign exchange deals announced yesterday could entail losses of up to 2,500m francs.

Today's figures would appear to justify the bank's earlier reassurances that its internal reserves were "sufficiently sound" to cover any losses resulting from the winding up of the foreign exchange positions involved. Branches of the Banque de Bruxelles, which is one of the country's largest, reported no appreciable increase in withdrawals by customers today.

Meanwhile legal proceedings against the four foreign exchange dealers involved in the deals are still pending. Warrants for their arrest are expected to be issued soon.

As far as the bank is concerned, the officials are still on the payroll and have not yet been suspended.

According to well-informed banking sources, the illegal transactions, which centred on dollars and selling German Deutsche marks, began as long ago as June. Using the bank's capital, the officials kept secret accounts of all their illegal transactions.

Their system worked perfectly until last week when a new dealer was drafted in to replace one of them at short notice. He became suspicious when he could find no trace in the bank's official accounts of a transaction queried by a foreign dealer.

Talks are going on in several countries to provide support for the Geneva-based Banque de Credit International which last week announced that it was suspending operations pending a legal decision on its future.

A bank spokesman commented: "I think there will be a solution."—Reuter.

Metal Box cutback in expansion plans will bolster CBI appeal

By Edward Townsend

Metal Box, Britain's largest supplier of cans to the food and drinks industry, which was planning capital expenditure of £35m this year, revealed last night that it had been forced to postpone a number of new projects to be delayed.

Mr A. W. Page, the chairman, said: "Until we see more daylight as to how fresh funds can be made available, we are having to be very selective and in some cases projects are having to be delayed."

The company's decision will give extra weight to the appeals from the Confederation of British Industry for a substantial relaxation of price controls and an easing of the tax burden on companies.

It follows the announcement from Pilkington Brothers, the flat glass manufacturer, that it was shelving its £150m investment programme, and confirms industry's view that a significant number of leading manufacturers are calling a halt to capital investment.

Sir Alastair Pilkington, chairman of the glass group, also gave a warning last night that the number of bankruptcies would increase in the next few months unless something substantial was done to help industry.

Metal Box declined to state which projects were being delayed. Mr Page said: "We have, of course, kept our investment plans under very close scrutiny as our operations both in the United Kingdom and throughout the world are constantly requiring further capital."

The company was going ahead with a new glass bottle factory in Nigeria.

Postponement of new projects would result in delaying the growth of the business, Mr Page said, "thus hindering the progress which would otherwise take place."

"Let us hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his forthcoming Budget will take the same view."

Sir Alastair, speaking at Pilkington's headquarters in St Helens, Lancashire, denied that his company's decision was politically motivated.

It had been a great discouragement to industry and it was irrelevant what Government was in office when the company took its decision at a board meeting last Friday. This had been arranged long before the date of the election was known.

Japanese companies cut staff salaries

Tokyo, Oct. 15.—Two large Japanese companies said today they were cutting salaries for management personnel, reducing recruitment and postponing investment in plant and equipment because of recessions.

The moves reinforced a growing tendency in Japan for companies to resort to relatively drastic measures to overcome the adverse effects of an economic downturn that so far shows no sign of reversing course.

Sumitomo Electric Industries, the nation's largest electric wire and cable maker, said it would cut salaries of about 1,000 administrative staff by 10 per cent "for the time being".

Mitsubishi Rayon Co., a major acrylic fibre producer, said it planned a 10 per cent pay cut for 27 directors. The moves by both companies take effect this month.

Sumitomo, citing a 40 per cent decline in orders, said it had trimmed planned investment during the fiscal year ending March 1975, to less than half. Mitsubishi said that it had postponed all new investment for the time being.

Mitsubishi also said it planned to take on only 400 middle and high school graduates next spring, about one third of the usual number. Sumitomo said it too would cut recruitment and new employment of temporary workers would be eliminated.

Sumitomo said it was also considering a reduction in staff fringe benefits, such as use of company cars, and would trim business trips.

Kansai Steamship Co., an operator of coastal passenger ships, today said it paid 990 land-based employees half of their normal salary on its normal pay day today. The remaining half would be paid some time later this month. The firm's 1,600 seagoing union members were not affected.

Yesterday Yashika Co., a camera and office equipment maker, disclosed plans to close one of its two production facilities and cut its work force by 40 per cent.

Lay-offs after walk-out at Rover plant

R. W. Shakespear, Rover's industrial relations director, said today that Leyland has again fallen into labour troubles. All production at the Rover plant, Solihull, Birmingham, came to a standstill last night with 10 workers laid off indefinitely because of an unofficial strike by 150 engineering workers from all the assembly units.

He shut down means that all out of cars, Land Rovers, Range Rovers will be paid today. The Solihull plant normally produces about 10 vehicles a week and is one of British Leyland's top export plants.

He inspectors' dispute over began more than two weeks ago when they demanded an improvement in their grade which now gives a basic rate of £46 for 40 hours week. Since then a series of meetings between the management, unions and inspectors have been on but yesterday afternoon broke down and the workers walked out.

A company spokesman said today: "Because we cannot work without the inspectors we have to lay off the entire workforce from 4.30 this afternoon. The lay-offs are for an indefinite period."

It is the "big four" British makers now have pay problems.

Talks today on Aston Martin aid

Directors of Aston Martin, the specialist car company which has asked for at least £500,000 of government aid, have been called to a surprise meeting tomorrow with officials of the Department of Industry.

A decision on the company's application was postponed because of the general election, and Aston Martin executives were not expecting to take part in further discussions so soon.

Mr Charles Warden, the managing director, said yesterday that the meeting was "more than we could have expected."

The department said that the company's application to follow by a decision at ministerial level but this would be "a little while yet."

Aston Martin's first plea for state funds was rejected, and its current application involves setting up a workers' co-operative, with employees taking a share in the business and having seats on the board.

Clearly, the backing of the 500 workers for the scheme is Aston Martin's chief hope in persuading the Government to help it over its liquidity problems.

Much of the company's difficulty has stemmed from the decision to concentrate on exports of its big V8 luxury cars which, in the case of the United States, has meant the completion of an expensive 50,000-mile exhaust emission and durability test to meet American regulations.

Mr Warden said yesterday that the test was completed by Friday. Creditors had been extremely helpful, and production of cars for America was continuing at the factory at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

FMC reject £6.5m offer by farmers

By Our Financial Staff

FMC, Europe's biggest wholesale meat group, is urging shareholders to reject the £6.5m cash bid from the National Farmers' Union.

The board of FMC, advised by Hill, Samuel, decided unanimously at a meeting yesterday to reject the offer, which is being made through the NFU Development Trust, as "inequitable to shareholders having regard to the income and asset position of FMC."

The board said it would give the full reasons for its rejection once the formal offer documents had been sent out by NFU Development Trust. This is expected to be in about two weeks.

The NFU already holds 40.9 per cent of FMC's equity. Originally it controlled the company but its interest was diluted in 1962 when FMC made a public share offering to raise funds to finance the purchase of Marsh & Baxter/Harris.

After the rejection of the bid FMC's shares rose 5p to 63p, while the company's cash offer price of 65p a share in cash.

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Carter Hawley gets Fraser stake for £147m

Sir Hugh Fraser's Scottish Universal Investments suffered a "reverse gasp" yesterday over its proposed sale of 20 per cent of House of Fraser department stores company to Carter Hawley Hale, the United States store group.

The two groups said they had agreed on revised terms for the Fraser stake, which values House of Fraser, which includes Harrods, at about £147m against £172m under the terms of the original arrangement.

"Changes in the economic climate" and "general financial uncertainties" are cited as the reasons behind the decision to downgrade the price Carter Hawley is prepared to pay per share from 143p to 121p.

The original proposals were made last March when it became clear that plans to merge House of Fraser with Boots were likely to fall through.

Talks are going on in several countries to provide support for the Geneva-based Banque de Credit International which last week announced that it was suspending operations pending a legal decision on its future.

A bank spokesman commented: "I think there will be a solution."—Reuter.

Steel-making nations to pool nuclear research

From Peter Hill

Munich, Oct. 15

Major world steel-producing nations have agreed to coordinate and pool their resources in research and development of steel-making by the use of nuclear heat. This development was disclosed here today by Mr Jacques Ferry, chairman of the International Iron and Steel Institute, on the second day of the organization's annual conference.

The move forms part of the steel industry's programme to diversify its energy sources. Mr Ferry described the agreement as a "very important step" and explained that research and development activities associated with nuclear steel-making would now be coordinated within the organization's framework.

The IISI decision stems from a proposal from the American steel industry, which is clearly concerned at the possibility of its being left behind in the development of nuclear energy in steel production.

This was underlined by Mr Frederick G. Jaicks of the American Iron and Steel Institute.

He said the suggested joint venture between the American steel industry and the country's Atomic Energy Commission had been hit by financial restraints.

American anti-trust legislation is also seen as a possible stumbling block, apart from difficulties which might be expected from the recently established European Nuclear Steel-Making Club, in which the British Steel Corporation is a participant.

£42 for dockers in Glasgow deal

Glasgow's 600-strong docks labour force yesterday accepted a pay and productivity deal which will increase basic weekly rates from £36 to £42, reduce the number of men in each gang, and enable gangs in future to switch when necessary from one ship to another so that men will always be available to handle vessels on regular services to the port.

The deal is linked to a capital expenditure programme for the modernization of port facilities in Glasgow.

Go-ahead for Lye bid by BSC

British Steel Corporation announced yesterday that the European Community Commission has authorized it to go ahead with its proposals to acquire Lye Trading, the steel stockholding group for which it originally made a takeover bid in May.

The terms of the offer, for which formal documents will shortly be posted, are 80p cash per share, plus a bonus of not less than 2p to compensate shareholders for the length of time it has taken to complete the deal. The minimum consideration of 82p per share values Lye at around £6.6m.

Anglo-Korean economic cooperation wins support

Boul, Oct. 15.—Strong support today from the South Korean government for efforts to step up economic cooperation in line with its policy of diversifying the sources of its capital and technology.

Speaking at a meeting of business leaders of both sides, Mr Duck-Woo, the Deputy Minister, noted that economic cooperation between the two countries was still at a relatively early stage.

Mr Nam, who is also Economic Planning Minister, added that British technical and capital cooperation in such projects as a 700,000-ton shipyard at Ulsan, southern Korea, "has given us the highest degree of hope and confidence in the future of bi-national cooperation between us."

Today's meeting was the first joint session of the private Korean-British business promotion committee in Seoul and the United Kingdom-Korea economic cooperation group set up in London last month.

Rescue operation planned for policyholders

Continued from page 1

and unable to rely on bankers for further cash.

The Jessel statement yesterday emphasized that the difficulties solely concerned London Indemnity and the holding company. Both the unit trust management group and Midland Bank Trust Company, which looks after unit trust funds' assets, stressed, too, that there was no cause for alarm.

At the date of the last published accounts the principal unit trusts, which now have a collective worth of £42m, had a number of holdings in associated companies although the amounts were not large in relation to the total.

Life and Equity, Jessel's other insurance subsidiary, is also free from immediate difficulties. Its surrender values are linked to equity values and have no guarantee comparable to that of London Indemnity.

There has also been trouble in other parts of the Jessel group, notably in South Africa, where Jessel Properties saw its listing suspended last month.

Yesterday none of the Jessel directors was available for comment. The dividend for the year ended June 30 is to be passed, but no request is being made to suspend the listing of a dampener for Mr Jessel's fireworks display; Financial Editor, page 19

10 1/2 pc prime rate

Michigan National Bank of Detroit announced yesterday that from next Monday, it would lower its prime lending rate to 10 1/2 per cent from 11 per cent.—Reuter.

How the markets moved

Rises	
Ass Pot Cement	6 1/2p to 9 3/4p
Barclays BK	5p to 14 1/2p
Brit Am Tob	5p to 17 1/2p
ELMC	1p to 10p
BP	6p to 28 1/2p
Bunzl Pulp	8p to 61p
GKN	8p to 15 1/2p
Falls	
Essey & Wakes	7p to 4 1/2p
Cochran	1p to 7p
First Nat Fin	2p to 5 1/2p
Greensquare	2p to 7p
Hawker Sid	6p to 18 1/2p
Hunting Gibson	20p to 17 1/2p
Kinross	5p to 47 1/2p
Equities again advanced strongly. Gilt-edged securities were firm. Sterling fell 40 points to \$23.305. The "effective devaluation" rate was 18.5 per cent. Gold gained 50 cents at \$155.00. SDR-5. The latest quotation was 1.19122 while SDR-E was 0.510465.	

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Canadians raise shipping stake

A further 840,000 shares in Manchester Liners, the North Atlantic container ship operator, have been bought by Euro-Canadian Holdings, taking the Canadian company's stake in ML to just under 30 per cent.

Furness Withy controls ML with a stake of around 65 per cent and so far has refused Euro-Canadian requests to sell out. It is now possible that Euro-Canadian, which competes on the North Atlantic run with ML, will seek board representation with a view to collaborative trading agreements.

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IMF chief's warning on deflationary policies

Tokyo, Oct. 15.—Mr. Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, issued a warning today against strong deflationary policies as a means of curing inflation.

He also urged oil-consuming countries to resist the temptation to try to eliminate balance of payments deficits as quickly as possible, arguing that such deficits should be accepted and financed for at least four to five years until payments surpluses of oil-producing countries can be eliminated.

Citing dangers of a world depression if individual nations act too aggressively to curb prices and improve their payments balances by tightly controlling domestic demand, Mr. Witteveen instead advocated measures aimed at maintaining economic activity "somewhat lower than the level of maximum production" and adoption of incomes policies.

The recent disappearance of excess demand had created favourable conditions for individual nations to introduce such policies, he said.

Some might be able to implement mandatory wage-price controls, while others might get better results from guidelines or labour-management-government consultations.

Mr. Witteveen said incomes policies were necessary to halt a wage-price spiral that had acquired "autonomous force" in some countries during recession conditions. He cautioned, however, that controls would not work if demand was allowed to become excessive again.—AP-Dow Jones.

Cosmos will put up an extra £1m as security for holidaymakers

By Business News Staff

Cosmos Air Holidays, which since the collapse of Court Line ranks as Britain's second largest inclusive holiday company, is putting up an extra £1m next summer to demonstrate its financial security. This is in addition to the bond required under the Civil Aviation Authority regulations for it to obtain a tour operating licence.

The total represents 20 per cent of the peak four months' turnover and is double the amount required so far by the CAA.

Many other companies in the field are experiencing difficulties in meeting the minimum level required by the authority. This was raised after the Court Line failure from 5 per cent

to 7.5 per cent of projected turnover for members of the Association of British Travel Agents and from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent for non-ABTA members.

Further increases are expected to be required by the authority next year.

The voluntary extra amount offered by Cosmos is seen as an attempt to influence discussions now in progress between ABTA and government representatives about methods of providing extra safeguards for holidaymakers.

Referring to these talks, Mr. Wilf Jones, managing director of Cosmos, said he was in favour of the suggested plan to introduce some sort of "reserve fund" to cover

clients' money paid in advance. But he rejected the suggestion that a newly created reserve fund should be used to refund Court Line clients.

A reserve fund to cover advance payments would be acceptable only if it covered all forms of travel. If it covered package holidays only, he said, loopholes could easily be created to avoid it. "The public will regard compulsory insurance as a tax and will flock to the banner of anyone who can avoid it."

The tour operators' new proposal is understood to be to ask for a 50p per £100 Government levy on all travel bills. This would cover airlines and shipping, among other inter-

Wool textile Neddy gives profit details

By Ronald Kershaw

Yesterday the economic development committee for the wool textile industry published for the first time financial tables enabling individual companies to make profitability comparisons with each other, and giving employers' organisations, trade unions and the Government an insight into the size, structure and progress of the industry.

Presumably to avoid anomalies and "league tables" and keep the whole matter in perspective, more than 400 companies are divided into those with assets over £500,000, those with assets between £100,000 and £500,000, and those under £100,000.

The tables include profits as a percentage of total sales, profits as a percentage of capital employed, sales as a ratio to capital employed and profit as a percentage of sales.

They also show cash flow as a percentage of capital employed, and numerous other criteria so that readers can examine all aspects of profits and cash flow under their own judgment of performance.

The report highlights the facts that in 1972/73 the 134 largest companies in the industry with assets over £500,000 accounted for 89 per cent of total assets and 87 per cent of sales. The 110 smallest companies with assets under £100,000 accounted for just over 1 per cent of both sales and assets.

Financial Profitability in the Wool Textile Industry, 1970/71-1972/73, price £1.20. From Neddy Books, Millbank Tower, London, SW1P 4QX.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need for national policy on reclamation of waste

From Mr Alfred Cooper

Sir, I wrote this letter during a General Election in which our political leaders are debating the measures we will need to employ if we are to extricate ourselves from the massive economic problems which confront us, to point out that there is one measure on which we can all agree. That is to put an end to the national extravagance which leads us to throw away enormous tonnages of valuable materials of all kinds every year.

In a recent paper issued by the Departments for Industry and for the Environment, it is stated that last year in Britain we produced 20 million tonnes of household and trade refuse and that industry produced as much again.

Most of the household refuse is simply buried in malodorous holes in the ground. Much of the industrial waste consists of paper, metals and chemicals imported at high cost from abroad.

Last year the bill was: non-ferrous metals £820m, wood pulp for paper £210m, iron ore £152m, and so on. The reclamation industry recovers and processes a large part of the industrial waste, something like 17 million tonnes annually.

We are fortunate in this country in having a very efficient reclamation industry whose performance has been improving steadily in recent years. Many millions of pounds have been

spent on highly sophisticated plant and, particularly in the case of metals, the recovery rate is high; 80 per cent for iron and steel and on average, 50 per cent for the non-ferrous metals such as lead and copper.

Some idea of the magnitude of the sums involved can be gauged from the turnover of the companies in the industry (some of them among the largest in the country) which recover, process and send back for re-use by industry, materials worth over £1,500m.

After years of indifference in Whitehall, the Government is now asking for "urgency and effort" in a national drive to reduce waste. They stress that everyone has a contribution to make: local authorities, industry, trade unions, voluntary organisations and the individual household and housewife.

It is to be hoped that, whatever the complexion of the next Government, the "war on waste" will be pursued with "urgency and effort" by the responsible ministers.

This country simply cannot afford to continue the rake's progress of past wastefulness. A feature of our economy which has been growing alarmingly in recent decades, I am sure the reclamation industry will play its part.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED COOPER,
President of the Reclamation Industry Council,
33-34 Chancery Lane,
London, WC2.

Too heavy with the theory, too light on reality

From Mr R. H. P. Boyle

Sir, You would do a service to your readers if you reduced the number of letters from theoreticians such as university dons, polytechnic lecturers and politicians, and devoted more space to the views of those who are actually handling our day-to-day business affairs. We are all so numbed by jargon that we may tend to overlook the realities of our situation.

I suspect that the experience of my company may be typical of many others. Over the past two years we have worked strenuously to increase our volume turnover and particularly our exports. To achieve this we have phased out outdated lines, developed new products and new export markets, and have recruited capable and efficient staff.

Cash has been our primary requirement, which, thanks to meticulous housekeeping, we have managed to find so far. But now what happens? We see more than half our hard-earned profit going to the taxman, leaving us with insufficient cash to expand to the extent that we have phased out.

Our excellent staff naturally expect pay rises that keep pace with the increased cost of living. Is it surprising that I begin to ask myself whether it is all worth the struggle when our efforts are being so effectively frustrated by the inland Revenue. Wouldn't I be better off becoming a lecturer or even a politician?

Yours sincerely,
R. H. P. BOYLE,
104 Camden Park,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

Reducing UK's dependence on unreliable sources of energy

From Mr W. M. Wolf

Sir, The election is over and we can return once more to trying to cope with our actual problems.

Last year I wrote to you on the consequences of our inability to control our vital energy needs, and I hope you will forgive me for returning to this subject. However, there seems to be a tendency for complacency now that the worst emergency has, for the moment, passed.

The whole of western European industrial development was built on the secure control of its sources of raw materials and energy. In the last century our main energy source was home-produced coal.

This century oil became more and more important and the security of its supply was assured by military and diplomatic control of the major producing region. As long as this state persisted, we could continue with our industrial development in the secure knowledge that it could not be deprived disastrously of its essential needs of energy.

We were, therefore, justified in basing much of our development on oil, which was the cheapest source of energy.

A change has come about in the world's affairs. During the past 20 years Europe and

Britain, whose *pax britannica* was the guarantor of normal commercial relations, have lost control. None of the governments appears to have appreciated the consequences. Not even the 1967 embargo penetrated to the intelligences of the leaders in politics and the administration.

The plain fact is, that, if we want to preserve our political and economic freedom, we must be able to rely on uninterrupted sources of essential supplies for our industry (and food), based on either producing them at home or obtaining them from reliable outside sources.

The question of whether other countries (not our firm friends) are willing or not to send us supplies must be made a matter of only marginal importance.

Britain may well be placed fortunately for an intermediate period of about 1980 to 2020, but not only must we plan now for the more distant future, we must also not take too much of a calculated risk during the next six years.

We must at once begin a crash programme designed to reduce immediately our dependence on foreign oil and other unreliable sources of essential materials.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. WOLF,
109 Coniscliffe Road,
Darlington, Co. Durham.

Industrial crisis

From Mr D. R. Myddelton

Sir, May I correct one point in your leader on the nationalised industries. Although the British Steel Corporation reported a profit of £25m in 1973-74, adjusting the conventional accounts to allow for the effects of currency devaluation reveals a loss of about £50m. (Very roughly, depreciation was understated by £50m, and losses of £50m in respect of monetary assets were omitted in the published accounts.)

One of the gravest aspects of the current economic and financial situation is that not only are many businesses having great difficulty in surviving but the Government's interference with the economy has been a major factor in this.

This means that it is very difficult to tell how badly British industry is doing. Had this been understood six months ago, for instance, it is hardly likely that the Government would have increased company taxation as much as it did.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. MYDDELTON,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield,
Bedford.

Autumn TV rates show average rises of 15pc

Substantial increases in some advertisement prices are contained in the autumn rate cards being implemented by the independent television companies. A report compiled by The Media Department Ltd, the Kimpher group subsidiary, shows that the network price of a 30-second standard rate weekday commercial has gone up 14 per cent on a year ago.

Typical increases by individual contractors are of the order of 15 per cent but one company, Anglia, is quoting a rise of 37 per cent. This does not take effect, however, until next month and is subject to Price Commission approval.

Newspaper advertisement rates have also gone up. In the 12 months since September last year every national newspaper has increased its rates at least

Advertising & marketing

once, and 11, including the London evening, have done so twice, the report says.

During the period January, 1973-October, 1974, the Sun, for example, has raised its cost a column inch by 69 per cent and The Times by 19 per cent. The average increase for national dailies during this period is 32 per cent.

The average increase for London evening papers per column inch is 26 per cent and for national Sundays 20 per cent.

Press increases, the report points out, are in most cases more or less in line with or below the general level of inflation over the period and should be seen against the background of an increase of around 100 per cent in the cost of newsprint in the same period.

Mars goes into toys

Mars, the confectionery and pet foods giant, is entering the toy market with a view to making more extensive use of its confectionery and grocery distribution network. The toys, being marketed under the Remus Play Kite name, are being subjected to an extensive test programme in the North-East. Test marketing is

expected to continue at least until next summer. Television advertising for the venture starts on November 29 on Tyne Tees Television and is handled by Hobson Bates.

Boots account move

Boots have moved their international advertising account to Benton & Bowles. The business, which is worth nearly £500,000, was previously with Wasey Campbell Ewald. Benton & Bowles have also been asked to handle Sweetex advertising in the United Kingdom. Another agency, Everette, continues to handle all Boots retail advertising in the United Kingdom.

Patricia Tisdall

Tokyo earmarks £14m for own jet airliner scheme

Tokyo, Oct. 15.—The Japanese Civil Transport Development Association, a group of aircraft manufacturers, has set up a £14.3m fund to develop a jet airliner with Boeing. One problem was Boeing's demand for special payment for its accumulated technical expertise.

But the Ministry of International Trade and Industry will still ask for 10,000 yen (about £14.3m) to be earmarked for the project in next year's national budget, the association said.

Under present proposals the Japanese manufacturers would pay 30 per cent of development costs estimated at 250,000 yen. The Japanese Government would subsidise 85 per cent of the Japanese share, the association said.

Italian aircraft maker Aeritalia is also expected to take part.—Reuters.

265,000 German car workers idle last month

Nuremberg, Oct. 15.—More than 250,000 workers in the West German motor industry were laid off work at various times last month because of a world-wide sales slump, according to the Federal Labour Office here.

A total of 265,000 men and women were asked not to turn up to work at more than 3,000 factories during last month. The car plants which laid off workers included the Volkswagen plant, Ford, Opel and Audi.

Opel, the German subsidiary of the United States General Motors Corporation, today announced further temporary redundancies during the next two months for some of its 34,000 workers.

GM cuts in Belgium: About 4,000 workers will be laid off for a week starting this Friday at General Motors' assembly plants in Belgium, and a further 1,600 from next Monday.

\$120m Bahrain project by Caltex

From Ralph Izzard

Bahrain Petroleum Co. a Caltex subsidiary, has decided to proceed with a \$120m (£50m) project for expanding refinery facilities here, according to usually reliable sources.

Improvements include a de-alcoholisation plant to reduce lead content in fuel, and extension of the existing low sulphur fuel oil plant.

It was originally intended to start the work one year ago but plans were deferred owing to uncertainties created by the world energy crisis. The go-ahead decision will be ratified at a full Caltex board meeting due here next month, the sources said.

Unofficial strikes hit three ports

Unofficial strikes at the ports of North Shields, Blyth, and Hartlepool disrupted the movement of exports yesterday. All are over payments systems, and are not related to Newcastle and Sunderland docks, which are operating normally in the north-east.

A meeting of the local joint council for the port transport industry will be held today at which representatives of all docks in the area will be present.

A Leicester company has made a plea to the General and Municipal Workers' Union to move a container bound for Norway. Its contents are part of a £500,000 textile order which the importers have threatened to give to Germany.

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RICARDO CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Significantly Increased Demand—High Level of Research Continues

Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Pritchard, C.B.E., M.A., C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.

- ★ I mentioned in March that I saw no reason to anticipate any deterioration in our affairs, and I am pleased that this view has been confirmed by events. There has been a very significant increase in the number of important engine and vehicle manufacturing firms throughout the world who have entered into formal agreements to retain our consultative and advisory services, including some well known names from Eastern Europe.
- ★ The work in exhaust emission reduction and control, which has formed such an important part of our activities over the past few years, continues unabated as does the demand for our services in reducing the noise emitted by all types of internal combustion engines and analogous equipment to levels likely to be made mandatory in many countries throughout the world. As a result of the "energy crisis" the above requirements have today to be reconciled with the growing pressure for economy in petroleum products, and in this field we are equally active.
- ★ Our own research work continues at a high level in certain areas where we can see that the acquisition of basic knowledge must increase the value of the services we can offer, whether they be in the design of new engines or in more effective guidance and advice.
- ★ There have been some interesting and important developments in our subsidiary, G. Cussons Ltd., on the educational and on the industrial equipment sides. These, and the continuing demand for our exhaust emission control instrumentation, have encouraged us to secure new premises sufficient for our anticipated needs for several years ahead.

FIVE YEAR RECORD

	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
CAPITAL EMPLOYED	1,165,241	1,021,910	899,910	717,032	695,399
Profit before Tax	378,138	273,690	254,188	179,661	166,220
Profit after Tax	182,866	148,593	151,930	111,797	126,786
Ordinary Dividends	*28.77%	*28.35%	27%	21%	18%
Gross Equivalent					

RICARDO & CO., ENGINEERS (1927) LIMITED, BRIDGE WORKS, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, SUSSEX

INTERIM STATEMENT OFFICE AND ELECTRONIC MACHINES LIMITED

Distributors for the United Kingdom of Adler Typewriters, and other office machinery.

Interim Report to 30th June, 1974

	6 months to 30.6.74	6 months to 30.6.73	Year 1973
Profit before taxation	658,761	595,640	1,205,895
Taxation	345,365	299,043	645,527
Profit after taxation	313,396	296,597	560,368

Extracts from Chairman's Statement

The results are regarded as satisfactory when due allowance is made for the difficult conditions.

Turnover for the first three months of the second half year has been most encouraging.

Improvements in the sales mix are offsetting rising overheads to preserve good margins.

The strong liquidity has been used to finance the increase in working capital.

Results for year to 31st December, 1974, will probably be as good as, if not better than, those for last year.

The sales of interests in Gestetner Copiers Ltd. for £750,000 and in leaseholds to M&P for £77,500 will reinforce the already strong liquidity.

This money will be held on short call until the risk of runaway inflation has abated, and it will then be available for expansion and diversification of the business.

The company is in good shape to face whatever hazards lie ahead, and is therefore justified in increasing the interim distribution with the aim of making the maximum allowable dividend for the year.

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O E M

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The charisma and the realities

That the market chose to pay more attention yesterday to Mr. Wilson's soothing words on the sudden outbreak of the Jessel camp could be no great surprise. In general, the market was ready at a level where it looked to be discounting at least the occasional future trouble spot, even if not a thing of them. In particular, there seemed no great reason to suppose that, barring a catastrophic outcome to the Jessel/LIGIS problem, the situation should not be treated as an incident that was both containable and isolated. There are, perhaps, two prime reasons for this line of thinking. First, seems highly unlikely that an orderly solution will not in fact be found to the LIGIS problem. Second, any repercussions at such a solution may have been as relatively unimportant to the extent that Jessel not part of the secondary market pack of cards but rather a conglomerate of stable investments, all of which could be placed (at a price) without causing any serious prices.

Just what kind of outcome can be expected remains to be seen. But the kind of problem must have been building for Jessel over recent months is not so hard to understand. While the group had, I have said, by and large cleared of the problem areas of banking and property, the South African property interest being the only exception—the insurance business has become a capital hungry operation at just the moment when cash was in short supply and the value of assets which further funds have been raised has been savaged by the slump in share prices.

True, Jessel has sold certain investments since the last balance sheet date of June 1973 part of the P & O Holdings, insurance—the bulk of the investments have apparently remained, many of them, of course, representing investments in the associated companies that provided nearly 50 per cent of group trading profits in the latest half-yearly figures.

And the kind of damage to the slump in share prices done to the balance sheet is being very roughly estimated as taking the fall in the price of the assets to be upwards of 15 per cent, the last 15 pence together with the fall in the stock market as a whole, short, it would be little surprise if investments with a book value of over £50m at June 30, 73, had not fallen by roughly 15 pence.

What this means is a 15 per cent fall in the value of the assets of the group, a fall of £7.5m (and net earnings of £22.2m) need to be elucidated.

How the situation will resolve itself, then, is anyone's guess. Even looking to a satisfactory outcome, there is no consolation in the fact that the group has a history of large losses on the charisma of chairman.

Cope Allman another in

an industrial holding company or conglomerate west of London in the mid-1960s, the Allman's enthusiastic investment following evaporated. And, while one or two pence gave the shares solid profit two or three years ago, the group has since been a difficult company to follow; Mr. Leonard, chairman is indeed a unique entrepreneur. But the fact is that the company, now led by a new chairman but Mr. Matchan still in the background as president, has produced its eighth suc-



Mr. L. J. Manson, chairman of Cope Allman International, is shown in a portrait. The text discusses the company's financial performance and the challenges it faces, particularly regarding the LIGIS problem and the impact of the market slump on its assets.

Assoc Biscuit Optimism at the interim

Associated Biscuit Manufacturers' Association (ABMA) is optimistic about the interim results. The text mentions that the group has achieved a 25 per cent increase in sales and a 10 per cent increase in profits, despite a 15 per cent increase in costs.

Breaking silence

Michela Sindona, the Sicilian-American financier, is shown in a portrait. The text discusses her role in the Wobaco formula and the challenges she faces, particularly regarding the Italian financial establishment.

Wobaco formula

Yesterday, of all days, was a tough one to be promoting a new banking and financial service in the City of London. Not that Wobaco Investments is particularly concerned with certain local problems; but its approach to a London launch was a London launch of its type in this country.

closing 16 weeks will be as good as those for the same period last year. One is looking, then, for a pre-tax profit of around £6m. With the shares at 29p, the implied prospective p/e ratio, fully diluted, is around 4 backed by a yield of 12.4 per cent. This looks sufficient to give the shares some impetus against the market.

FMC On to the defensive

At this stage FMC is restricting itself to rejecting the offer from NFU Development Trust and allowing the historic record to speak for itself. Ammunition, it seems, is being held in reserve for when the going gets tougher.

On that basis, the historic record, indeed, a reasonable defence. Updating 1972/73 assets with the inclusion of earnings retentions from 1973/74 gives assets per share of 113p or 135p including tax equalisation and goodwill. But most of the properties are in the books at cost or 1962 valuations so the true figure will obviously be appreciably higher.

Bunzl Exceeding expectations

A two thirds increase in interim pre-tax profits is more than expected from Bunzl Pulp & Paper. Only a few months ago the group was adopting a highly cautious line, talking of the difficulties experienced during the three-day week and the shortage of materials and rising prices.

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Yesterday the crisis that has engulfed London's financial community appeared to have claimed Oliver Jessel, the colourful 45-year-old chief and architect of Jessel Securities.

The group's interests range over a large financial and industrial empire which includes more than a dozen unit trusts, substantial commodity and mining interests and a large slice of Britain's special steel industry, as well as the insurance group whose specific problems apparently precipitated yesterday's share suspension by Jessel.

The group was one of the front-runners of the last bull market, indulging in fast-moving series of deals that characterized most of the so-called "whizz kid" activity throughout 1970 and 1971.

His family background was firmly establishment and wealthy. His interest in business and finance first developed when he inherited a sizeable personal fortune. With this he started a number of enterprises in the early 1950s and from that beginning went on to invest money of friends and associates, spawning two trusts, the New Issue Permanent and the Jessel Permanent in the early 1960s.

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The acquisitions, of France Fenwick, Demerara, Stevenson Hardy and Falke took him into activities as diverse as insurance broking, shipping, sugar plantations and even cookers.

While the acquisitions were justified at the time on the grounds that this was spreading group interests rather better, Mr. Jessel's comments over the years make it clear that in spite of the numerous deals that pepper the progress of his companies, he felt that his real role lay in engineering-up apparently moribund management situations in British industry.

Early offer documents are enlightening. In the hard-fought offer for Falke the Jessel camp put out vigorous attacking propaganda on the state of the group's management, at one point exclaiming: "Falke have inferred that they have brought in some sort of Dr. Beeching. In fact, it is merely a subsidiary company director of long standing who has been placed on the main board."

While this criticism of British management was a consistent theme, 1970 saw Jessel Securities, like Slater, Walker, Barclay Securities and the rest of the new-style financiers, plunge into the business of asset-stripping, with the acquisition of a number of heavy engineering groups such as Rotherham Forge and Brightside Engineering.

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As far as Jessel's management style goes, the relationships spawned with the group's associated companies have been designed to give young management talent its head, a situation that has not always been entirely successful. As the largest shareholder in the shipping group he fiercely challenged the capacities of the establishment board and the motives for the bid. Earlier in the year he drew the wrath of the establishment with some typically colourful jibes at British industry in the magazine *Accountancy*. He referred to the country's "drunken and senile management" being unable to face up

Crisis case for putting profit back into the food industry

Processing industries are waiting to burst through the doors of their respective ministries and urge the majority Labour Government to undo many of the food policy decisions of its minority predecessor. Farmers believe that if the last government's livestock support policies continue the beef cattle and pig producing industries will collapse. Processors say that if the Government does not change some of the summer amendments to the Price Code there will be a wave of redundancies, shortages and cancellations of investment plans.

Assoc Biscuit Optimism at the interim

Associated Biscuit Manufacturers' Association (ABMA) is optimistic about the interim results. The text mentions that the group has achieved a 25 per cent increase in sales and a 10 per cent increase in profits, despite a 15 per cent increase in costs.

Wobaco formula

Yesterday, of all days, was a tough one to be promoting a new banking and financial service in the City of London. Not that Wobaco Investments is particularly concerned with certain local problems; but its approach to a London launch was a London launch of its type in this country.

to "those tough German manufacturers" in export markets; and, not at all abashed by the fact that he was addressing an audience from the profession, Mr. Jessel declared that he had had to restrain every accountant he had ever employed.

On the same tack he deplored nepotism in British industry, a fact that critics have always found hard to reconcile with the presence of his younger brother Toby Jessel, the Tory MP, on the main board of Jessel Securities.

Until the clouds have settled after the present crisis within his empire it is impossible to assess quite what industrial contribution his group has made, although many observers consider that the various individual groupings are sound.

Jessel Securities has gone to some lengths to change an image which never attracted much institutional support and which has suffered through the various complicated reshufflings over the past few years. Last autumn it bought in the investment portfolios of its associated companies in concentrated dealing activities within the main company and clarify the sometimes confused line between dealing and industrial activity.

Bunzl Exceeding expectations

A two thirds increase in interim pre-tax profits is more than expected from Bunzl Pulp & Paper. Only a few months ago the group was adopting a highly cautious line, talking of the difficulties experienced during the three-day week and the shortage of materials and rising prices.

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change in ownership of St. Martins Property Corporation came into effect yesterday, four days after the investment of the offer became unconditional.

the board came Sir David Harris, First Church Estates Commissioner and also director of General Accident and Life Assurance, and came David Buchanan and came Dawson of the Kuwait Investment Office, as well as Kuwaiti civil servants, and Mohammed Al-Sabah and Khaldun Mohammed Jafar.

People running public companies are, of course, perfectly entitled not to be in when newspaper chaps call. It would be totally irresponsible, on these flimsy grounds, to wonder whether in some companies at least the urge to flatter is flagging still further; so Business Diary will not so wonder.

Michela Sindona, the Sicilian-American financier, a warrant for whose arrest has been issued in Italy, yesterday broke his long silence with an appeal to President Giovanni Leone. He alleged he had been subjected to persecution by the financial authorities since 1971 and threatened legal action against them.

In a long statement from his Swiss office at 2, Rue de la Bourse, Geneva, he counter-attacked unspecified members of the Italian financial establishment.

Sindona, a self-made lawyer from Messina, first ran into difficulties some months ago with his Franklin National Bank in New York. In his statement he contested the grounds for the Italian warrant on charges of financial irregularities and also the government's order—formally deposited with the Milan tribunal today—to put his Banca Privata Italiana into forced liquidation.

He argued that there could not have been falsification of the balance sheet in his Italian banks in recent years, because his banking activities had received approval of the Bank of Italy in its capacity of supervisor of the Italian banking system.

Within a few minutes, however, somebody must have nudged his mind and come again, for a subsequent phone call to the offices

said that at least one of the new St. Martins directors there, although as the telephone himself he

While all this was going on, Ronald was at Church

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Oct 14. Dealings End Oct 25. § Contango Day, Oct 28. Settlement Day, Nov 5.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 25

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